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Thursday, 16 August, 2007 • Issue No. 1077 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com

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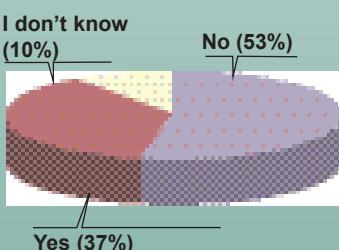


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## Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think Yemen can play a significant role in peace keeping in Palestine as it has done in the African Horn?



This edition's question:

Do you think refugees are acting out of control threatening UNHCR staff?

- Yes  
 - No  
 - I don't know

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard

## Taiz experiences massive sit-in, citizens demand living improvements

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, August 15 — More than 10,000 citizens held a sit-in in front of the governorate building in Taiz in response to an invitation from the Joint Meeting Parties. Citizens protested many problems plaguing the governorate including price hikes of electricity, water, gas and cement, unemployment, poverty and corruption.

The protestors lifted banners that stated, "Water is evaporation and fire bills," "Stop fatal price hikes," "Taiz is the city of poverty, unemployment and drought" and "Bread and water are our demands." One of the protestors threw an empty plastic bag formerly containing wheat at the mayor's face while he spoke with Al-Jazeera channel. The organizing committee along with the governor's heightened security contained the situation before it developed into anything serious.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Azraqi, first secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party, stated, "This sit-in came as a result of price hikes and unprecedented deterioration of citizens' living stan-



Protestors wrote on bread: "New Yemen, better future."

dards." He went on to say that Taiz governorate suffers from many crises such as electricity and water price hikes, deterioration of health conditions as well as the spread of

unemployment among youth and poverty. Taiz has a population of 3.5 million. The governmental institutions suffer from corruption.

Continued on page 3

## Ethiopian refugees exposed to police attack

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANAA, August 15 — Dozens of Ethiopian refugees threatened that they will carry out a series of peaceful sit-ins, starting next week, outside headquarters of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sana'a. They stated that they will remain indefinitely until their demands are met.

The threat came despite Yemeni security interference of the last Ethiopian sit-in, which took place on Sunday in Front of UNHCR's office in Sana'a. "We will carry out our peaceful strikes and hunger sit-ins until we get a clear and tangible solution," stated one of the refugees Daniel Gezahegen, who also talked about violence the refugees faced during the last sit in. He confirmed that strikers who began gathering at the headquarters around 10 a.m. on Sunday, were exposed to violence from the Yemeni police force who also closed all the roads while refugees conducted an interview with reporters of Yemen Times and Yemen Observer. The police forced the strikers to end their sit-in at 4 p.m. "They attacked us in attempt to disperse the demonstration. An Ethiopian widow who has HIV was beaten until her nose bled, although we warned the police officer of her situation. They also beat me with the back of their gun," said Gezahegen.

The refugees raised signs that stated, "Let the Yemeni government to interface in our serious problems," "We are inno-



Refugees raised sign asking the Yemeni government to interfere and solve their problems.

cent and peaceful refugees," and "We have no protection. We are orphans of freedom, justice and human rights. We are in a pit of darkness."

According to the refugees, the police arrested some of them and forced them to write commitments to not strike again. "My husband was arrested with others. They were taken to detention where they were forced to give their names and names of other strikers. They also were forced to write a commitment that they would come back to protest. My husband agreed to sign this paper because he is sick and cannot stay for long in custody whereas the others refused to sign so they stayed arrested," an anonymous female refugee stated.

A security source who wanted to remain anonymous revealed that UN officials called them saying that some refugees were threatening them. The source confirmed the release of all refugees who were arrested. He did not deny or confirm that refugees were beaten during the sit-in.

Continued on page 3

## Conflict continues between army and Houthis, optimism about mediation success

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, August 15 — Tribal and media sources from Sa'ada revealed that a portion of Sahar district, north of Sa'ada city, experienced armed clashes between army soldiers and Houthi loyalists. These clashes coincided with negotiations between the two parties undertaken over the last two weeks. Both parties began digging trenches and barricades and equipping their sites with weapons, carefully monitoring actions from the opposing side.

Army soldiers shot and killed a Houthi member in Qataber last Wednesday. The incident incited sympathy among many tribesmen, arous-

ing suspicion regarding protection of their lives in the event that they return to their homes, while the state refrains from issuing amnesty according to Al-Dawha agreement.

Media sources stated that Abdul Malik Al-Houthi mentioned the double-cross killing in a message directed to the presidential and Qatari committees last Monday. This was in response to a message delivered by the two committees to the Houthis two days before.

According to the source, the message Abdul Malik Al-Houthi delivered last Monday in Sana'a through a representative contained many inquiries about the decree of amnesty as well as the issue of migration from Al-Naq'a'h

and Matrah areas. The message also inquired about the clashes of Wahsha and Haidan districts and failure to restore stability to the areas before 2004.

Field sources in Wahsha district informed that there are army troops, supported by hundreds of tribesmen, preparing a second attack on Shallal Mountain as well as neighboring mountains where Houthi loyalists are taking cover.

Ahmed Al-Sharafi, one of the Houthi field leaders, in a statement published by Al-Mustakla.net, stated that the army is supported by hundreds of tribesmen from different areas. Last Thursday, the army launched an attack

on Al-Mashaf Mountain, resulting in mass injuries and casualties on both sides. Houthi loyalists were subjected to a mortar attack last Tuesday. Those attacked did not exclude women, children and livestock, according to his release.

Despite application of the ceasefire agreement in Wahsha district, Al-Sharafi stated that conflict in the area has not subsided. This is due to the army's continued attack of Houthis, despite Houthi compliance with the ceasefire agreement. He went on to say that the army and its tribal supporters continue to breach agreement conditions.

Continued on page 3

## Ash-Shayif accuses National Solidarity Council of treachery

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri  
 For Yemen Times

SANAA, August 15 — A number of sheiks accused the National Solidarity Council along with its supporters of treachery and supporting subversive elements. This accusation was made in a meeting attended by close to 1,000 sheiks at the Sana'a home of Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ash-Shayif, sheik of the Bakeel tribe, one of the greatest tribes in Yemen. The meeting aimed at standing against the National Solidarity Council headed by Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar who is affiliated with the Hashid tribe.

The Hashid and Bakeel tribes are well-known for their tribal rivalry.

The meeting, chaired by Sheikh Naji Ash-Shayif, in a statement signed by a number of sheiks, announced their objection to the National Solidarity Council along with its suspected goals, inciting feuds and conflict among Yemeni citizens. It also said that sponsors of this council as well as participants do not represent Yemeni tribes, tribe sheiks or any other constituency of the Yemeni community. They only rep-

resent themselves and their party.

The statement also accused Arab countries involved in the council with supporting terrorism and interfering in country and citizen affairs. "Those countries had provided well-known parties in Yemen with money and weapons to practice such barbaric acts. Today we hear about establishing the so-called National Solidarity Assembly whose sponsors received financial support from Arab countries.

Continued on page 3

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## In brief

## SANA'A

## Talent show of Sana'a youth

Aug 12 — Starting today the events of the talents show of Sana'a youth will be continuing for five days. This is the first show of its kind and will be organized at Saif Bin the Yazan School at Al-Tahrir Square in which an exhibition will display productions of the Yemeni youth. Eighty summer centers will participate with productions of their talented youth in the exhibition in drawing, sculpture, handicrafts, and scientific creations, which were created by the young talents during the Summer. The best exhibits will be awarded.

## TAIZ

## Enhancing university lecturers' performance

Aug 12 — Universities of Taiz and Dhamar are organizing an international conference on enhancing performance of university lecturers for two days. The conference, which will take place in Taiz, will include experts from Yemen and abroad. Thirty two scientific research and working paper will be presented in the conference which will be divided into six themes, most important of which is the role of the university lecturers in achieving the purpose of universities and the career development of their professors as well as the requirements of higher education staff.

## MARIB

## 19th medical camp

Aug 11 — The nineteenth medical camp in Marib started two days ago and will continue for two weeks. It was organized by the Ministry of Health and includes services in eye diseases, ANT, general surgery, skin diseases...etc.

The Ministry of Health carried out field visits to the President's hospital where the camp took place and evaluated its requirements of equipments and staff before the camp started. The first phase of the camp continues for one week and aims at carrying 400 free operations as well as providing medications for more than 3000 cases.

## ADEN

## Tourism preparations for Khaliji 20

Aug 12 — The general authority for tourism development in Aden has finalized its plan in preparation for Khaliji 20, the sport events to take place in Aden at end of 2010. The plan includes improving the accommodation services through hotels and rental apartments as well as enhancing the outdoor recreation parks and gardens...etc. The plan also includes improving the transportation network especially from the hotels to the ground fields where the sport events will take place.

## Al-Baidha

## Locusts attack agricultural lands

Aug 11 — Head of the agriculture and irrigation office in Rada'a at Al-Baidha governorate reported that great amounts of desert locusts have attacks agricultural lands of an area estimated around 500 hectares. The locusts attacked crops, vegetable, and fruit plantations. He confirmed that the monsoon season and heavy floods are partially responsible for the increased breeding of locusts in Rada'a, which has not witnessed an attack of locusts at this level for a long time. Further, he indicated that his department is in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the center for fighting desert locusts in Sana'a so as to exert more efforts to deal with this plague.

## MAHWAIT

## Awareness activities on AIDS

Aug 12 — The General Health and Population office in Mahwait governorate is planning a number of educational and awareness activities on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases during the second half of this year. The activities include field visits, distribution of leaflets and brochures, as well as information communication methods to barbers, physicians, and medical staff. Youth camps and assembly points will be one of the main targets for the awareness activities.

## India celebrates sixty years of Independence

SANA'A, Aug. 15 — The 60th Anniversary of India's Independence Day was celebrated yesterday, August 15, at the Embassy of India in Sana'a.

In a colorful function, attended by more than 450 Indian nationals, persons of Indian origin, and friends of India settled in around Sana'a, the Ambassador of India H. E. Mr. R. M. Aggarwal unfurled the Indian National Flag, and the children, of the Indian Embassy in School, sang the National Anthem. The ambassador also congratulated the gathering and the Indian community in Yemen. Worth-mentioning, there are about ten thousand Indian citizens, and 100,000 persons of Indian origin living in Yemen.

The Ambassador then read out the "Address to the Nation" delivered on the eve of Independence Day by Her Excellency Mrs. Pratibha Patil, the first woman President of India.

"Having traversed sixty long years since independence, it is time for us to introspect on the progress achieved so far and ponder over the future course of action. We have excelled in many areas; and in many others we still have immense scope for improvement," said Mrs. Patil in her address.

In her address, she endorsed the importance of fostering equilibrium in diversity, which is the hallmark of democracy. "What sets our nation apart is that in spite of crises-crossing of a plethora of culture, languages, religions, customs, faith and traditions, our people are bound together in unison by a deep-rooted secular Indian identity," she said.

The ceremony was followed by a Cultural program presented by children of the Indian Embassy School in



Ambassador of India H. E. Mr. R.M. Aggarwal reading out the President of India's Address to the Nation

Sana'a, who sung and danced to the tune of patriotic songs.

Simultaneously, in Aden there had been a flag hoisting ceremony at the Mahatma Gandhi School on the occasion.



Indian Embassy School Children celebrating the occasion of India's 61st Independence Day.

## Local councils and district managers prevent locust control

SANA'A, Aug. 15 — Director-General of Yemen's Desert Locust Control Center Abdu Fara Al-Romaih complained that some directors of local councils as well as district managers in Hadhramaut and Shabow resisted locust control teams sent to exterminate infected areas.

Such resistance is due to bee husbandry farms in these districts, which might be affected by pesticides. Locust control teams face many difficulties during their work. "We give these areas three days to move away the bees to safe places otherwise the teams will leave these areas without solving the problem of locusts," Al-Romaih stressed, adding, "There are some people who refused to remove the bees and let the teams to do their work because of their personal interests."

Daily reports are sent to the Ministry of Agriculture about the latest developments of the locust control teams, but the ministry's interaction with the teams is minimal. "We inform the Ministry of Agriculture about the problems we face with such local councils and some citizens and we only receive words without them doing anything for us," Al-Romaih explained.

An intensive campaign will continue in Hadhramaut and Shabow on Thursday. There is an extermination scheduled for Al-Mahra governorate. "The number of locust flocks is bigger



Days ago, a few locust flocks arrived in Sana'a, giving many people the chance to catch the insects. Groups of children and youth gathered on Al-Sabeen Street, where swarms of locusts appeared, and started the hunt.

than the huge number that appeared in Yemen in 1993. But we plan to control the situation at the end of next month, September," Al-Romaih stated.

In Sana'a, groups of locusts blanketed the sky over Al-Saba'een field, destroying its vegetation. However, Al-Romaih ensured that locusts spreading in Sana'a are coming from outside of Yemen and they are few in number, despite citizen calculations.

It is the nature of locusts to fly to different areas, especially during rainy weather which helps increase the amount of locusts. "The main reasons for the spread of the locust swarms in the governorates are the environmental conditions that were suitable for their spreading,

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Indian Independence, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations is sending cultural troupes to different parts of the world including Yemen. Two months back a Bharatanatyam group had visited Yemen and performed in Sana'a, Aden, and Hudeidah. An 8-member group, led by the renowned Indian artist Mohammad Ahmed will present a Qawwali (Traditional Islamic / Sufi music) performance on Friday, August 24, at 7:30 PM at the Cultural Center in Sana'a. The group will also perform in Aden on the Sunday, August 26, at 8:00 PM at the Palestine Hall.

Retrospectively, Father of the Indian nation, Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Salvation of India lies in the elevation of her women." It is indeed encouraging that assured representation has been provided to nearly one million women in local bodies in India.

## Saudi Arabia allows the entering Yemeni Umrah seekers

SANA'A, Aug. 15- the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and the Islamic Affairs approved 16 contracts of the Yemeni agencies of Umrah, beside 4 agencies which had approved in advance.

These 4 agencies are from 28 Yemeni traveled agencies, despite the expiry of the time limit set by the Saudi Hajj Ministry, Hassan Aal Al-Sheikh, the deputy of the endowment, explained.

Due to the good relationships

between the two countries, the Saudi Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz has given directives to the Ministry of Hajj to accept the Yemeni agencies of Umrah submitted by the Yemeni Ministry of Religious Endowment and Islamic Affairs.

Al-Sheikh also called upon the agencies to comply with the conditions and stipulations to avoid such problems in the registration so as to ease the path before the Umrah seekers.

## President instructs \$2 billion for electricity &amp; job opportunities

By: Mustafa Asshaeri  
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, Aug. 13 — The President of the Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh instructed the government last Monday to assign \$ 1billion so as to accelerate producing electricity power to cover the power shortage. He also allocates another \$ 1 billion to create job opportunities to the huge number of unemployed people.

Saleh pointed out to the participants of the 4th General Conference of the Cooperative agricultural Union that he is trying to solve the critical and significant situations of the shortage of electricity as well as the steadily accelerating unemployment.

"We are looking forward to come out of the conference with positive and fruitful outcomes to avoid deficit aspects which occurred during the last period", the President said.

He also stressed that the government should seriously solve the perplexing problem of unemployment which is of high rate in Yemen.

Recent studies referred that Unemployment in Yemen increased sharply due to the government failure to improve the economic policies and enhance the life standards of Yemen. According to the 2006 annual economic report, unemployment average in Yemen has rocketed up since 2003 – 05 to 34%, which is regarded as the biggest number so far.

The report stated also that the number of young people graduating every year from universities and private institutions reaches up to 188000 graduates, while the available annual vacancies are not more than 16000 jobs.

Unemployment in Yemen is a real

hassle facing the development as it has economical and social effects. The person average daily income has been affected due to the recent price hikes and the increase of unemployment. Studies conducted by both local and international institutions show that poverty is the main cause of violence and crimes.

The young people spend their time hanging around in the streets, committing violence and crimes as a result of unemployment.

The electricity, on the other hand, is not in a good condition too. Yemeni people all over the country suffer from unbearable power shortage.

"It is a received habit that the power goes off daily for one to two hours. Sometimes during the exam period the power keeps on flashing continuously and we can go with that, but in Ramadan, it is unbearable", a 25-year-old young man working in Trust Yemen Company said.

"The President pledged during his recent electoral campaign to enhance the power shortage with nuclear power and we are still waiting", he continued.

According to Yemen's Public Electricity Corporation (PEC), the country's electricity distribution network is inadequate. Currently, it is estimated that only 40 percent of the total population in Yemen have access to electricity from the national power grid. Even for those connected to the grid, electricity supply is intermittent, with rolling blackout schedules maintained in most cities. In order to meet the growing demand (up to 20 percent between 2000 and 2004) and to avert an energy crisis in the medium term, Yemen's Electricity and Water Ministry has plans to increase the country's power, generating capacity to 1,400 megawatts (MW) by 2010.

## Yemeni economic corporation caters for providing flour and wheat

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Sana'a, Aug. 15 — The Yemeni Economic Corporation catered for providing flour and wheat in all the Republic governorates. The General Manager of the corporation, brigadier Ali AL-Kuhlani said that the corporation along with its branches will provide the consumers with their needs of flour and wheat via direct selling centers distributed in all the governorates of the Republic.

Al-Kuhlani also said that strict measures will be taken against any employee who manipulates and goes against the rules. Further, he will be referred to Prosecution.

Likewise, Mahfoudh Shamakh, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, pinpointed that the decision of the government is courageous and is in need of reviewing. Further, he indicated that the decision came amid accusations of traders, importers, retailers, and government over the wheat issue. The burning question is who is responsible for what is going on within such accusations? We find that the opinions contradict each other. Mahfoudh went on to say that importers do not increase the prices.

He also declared that the importers sell one bag of wheat at YR 2500. However, some people purchase it and sell it at 3000 at the same moment. He mentioned what the President had said regarding some food suppliers' increase of the foodstuff prices while they are piled up in their stores.

Shamakh maintained that the mistake lies in the trading style, which is the policy of starvation, especially, when the stored wheat bags are sold with new prices.

He also affirmed that the government has faults because it did not establish mills to store for wholesale and retail traders. So, they can get reasonable

gains, emphasizing the importance of selling at retail in all areas.

These statements came after what Al-Habari, the famous businessman, said in press releases in which he accused some tradesmen of being accountable for these price hikes as well as monopolizing wheat import. Al-Habari also went on to say that the price hikes taking place in the Yemeni markets have no relations with the international price hikes.

In his statement, according to September net, Al-Habari stated that there are some tradesmen who have great quantities of wheat stored in mills since before prices go up. These stored quantities are now sold at the new prices, indicating the avarice and greed of those tradesmen.

Worth-mentioning, the prices of wheat progressively increase since the presidential elections run in September last year. The price of one bag with capacity of 50kg reached at YR5000 while the quotation listed in the state-run press is YR 4000.

However, the president criticized the government for being unable to stabilize prices of wheat and flour, approving a new operation to generate electricity and to provide job opportunities for unemployed people. The operation was valued at two US\$ billions. He granted the Economic Corporation with additional amounts valued at YR three billions to purchase and import wheat to face demand of this primary foodstuff.

Worth-noting, the monthly consumption of wheat in Yemen reaches 200,000 ton. However, 94million ton is consumed annually.

The reports of Arab Union for Food Industries indicate that the annual consumption of Arab region is one hundred million ton of cereals, of which 50million ton is wheat. One billion loaves is eaten daily. And, the value of importing wheat reaches US\$ 5 billion annually.

## Yemen and Sudan sign an agreement in the petroleum field

ADEN, Aug. 15 — The Aden Refineries Company and the Sudanese Ministry of Energy and Mining signed last Tuesday a minute of

cooperation in training the two countries' cadres in fields of gas, refining oil, and earthquake monitoring, serving the economical interests of both countries.

The two sides agreed also on having joint conferences, exchanging technical proficiencies and visits, as well as benefiting from the countries' experiences in this view.

The Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals Abdul Malik Alamah and the Undersecretary of Energy and Mining Ministry Hamad Abdul-Qader Al-Nile

signed the minute.

According to a report for the Yemen times, Alamah said that the agreement on this minute happened since the end of the second course, which held in Sana'a between Yemen and Sudan in the petroleum fields.

The Oil Ministry is serious in modernization Aden refinery for about \$24-40 millions, he added. "We had, in the second course, clear and determined fields for the cooperation as well as the mechanisms of the implementation. We expect reaching clear and practical things in oil fields," Al-Nile confirmed.

"The points of meeting between Yemen and Khartoum are that the old Bor Al-Sudan refinery and Aden refin-

ery are from the same kind. But, Aden refinery has specific aims, where as Bor Al-Sudan refinery is stopped now", he clarified

"The reason is, first and foremost, we wanted to establish a refinery, which fulfills the internal requirements. Now we are about to establish a refinery for exportation. Aden refinery produces internally and we hope to start with new and big units and to establish a new refinery which can export the products overseas", Al-Nile stated.

He concluded his statement with saying that his visit to Yemen was completely successful, calling upon the implementation of agreement.



## Continued from page 1

**Taiz experiences massive sit-in**

Al-Azraqi considered the meeting held by the governor and opposition parties last Monday as a news copout that does not convince even children. He also said that promises pledged by the governor have been raised before while crises are growing steadily.

Ahmed Al-Maqrami, head of the Islah party media committee in Taiz, pointed out that the government should take the demands of the citizens into consideration regardless their political affiliations. The government must treat all citizens equally without showing preferential treatment to those affiliated with the General Peoples Congress.

Al-Maqrami added that the sit-in is a peaceful expression, which will be followed by other sit-ins if the government does not meet citizen demands related to human rights such as equal access to water and electricity, alleviating poverty and fighting unemployment as well as price hikes. He advised the government to take heed to the Taiz sit-in to prevent similar sit-ins from occurring in other governorates.

Rashad Saif, representative of Al-Wahdawi party, affirmed that the JMP did not seek to incite conflict with the authority by carrying out this sit-in. He went on to say, "The citizens are fed-up with the tedious and monotonous pledges. It is time now for the government to hear the citizens' voice who suffer from living crises." The most important issue that Taiz suffers from is water accessibility, he stated. The government could not find a solution for this problem, despite massive amounts of water being wasted. The unreasonable price hikes have driven citizens crazy while the government remains unresponsive. This could lead to a human disaster in the country.

The governor, Ahmed Al-Hajri, invited chairmen of the JMP, members of Parliament, media and local officials to an open dialogue in which he delivered a seemingly cooperative speech, attempting to stop the sit-in by reviewing a number of provisions to resolve Taiz problems.

Al-Hajri went on to say that he will struggle to the last moment before handing over control of Taiz to another governor in the upcoming election, three to four months away. He expressed his wish that the local council will choose the right leader.

The meeting between the governor and the JMP emphasized the importance of privatizing the sea and air ports as the public sector has failed to administer them successfully. Al-Hajri pointed out that electricity teams assumed their duty in most of the governorate districts, aiming at installing electrical power in 80 percent of the governorate within three years.

Al-Hajri stated that success is dependent on unity. If there is a failure, the local authority will work diligently to correct itself. He also praised MPs for their commendable efforts at following up on projects in their districts, highlighting the actions of Islah MP Abdul Hameed. "Taiz is the governorate that brought up unification and the most beneficiaries of its services," he maintained.

The governor declared, "The governorate has taken four measures to resolve the problem of water. They are represented by repairing and rehabilitation of the network so as to reduce the loss with 90 percent. The governorate has established many barriers to recharge the ground water basins. There are some studies on the possibility of desalinating water of Al-Hawjah area. All these measures will be done through an

investment project in hand of Saudi investors and Hail Sa'eed An'am."

Al-Hajri urged citizens to be patient for one year only, pointing out what will be achieved in the exceptional plan of the next year.

Representatives of the opposition confirmed their solidarity with the sit-in. Sadiq Al-Ba'dani, from Islah party, along with Sultan Al-Samai, affiliated with the Yemeni Socialist Party, directed sharp criticism of current conditions in the governorate. Al-Ba'dani revealed that flights from the area airport have decreased from 1,500 to 150 between 1984 and 2004.

**Ethiopian refugees**

UNHCR's protection officer was on leave so no one was authorized to comment.

This is not the first demonstration arranged by Ethiopian refugees in front of the UN refugee office. The refugees, who have lived in Yemen since 1991, have arranged many protests demanding citizenship in Yemen as well as resettlement in another country.

"We feel that we are exposed to social and racial discrimination in Yemen. We are not allowed to travel from one region to another. Even if we want to integrate into the Yemeni society it's difficult without the citizenship, but the Yemeni government said that the refugees can continue living in Yemen under refugee status but did not show interest in offering the refugees citizenship. So the only option that we have is resettlement in a third country," Gezahegen stated.

UNHCR officers in Sana'a have stated many times that the refugee agency cannot offer citizenship to refugees. It is the responsibility of a host country. Additionally, they confirmed that the UNHCR cannot offer a refugee resettlement status because that decision rests on the shoulders of another country.

**Conflict continues between army and Houthis**

He also added that the army laid siege on people seeking shelter in Shallah Mountain and neighboring mountains. The siege has enclosed the area for seven months, interrupting the supply of food and medication to the region's villages.

Al-Sharafi stated, "We are sure that the army is preparing during the next hours for a gross massacre, however, we are ready for them," adding, "We are still sticking to our commitment in terms of ceasing fire preventing bloodshed of Muslims. Though they continue setting fire at us, we did not retaliate in the last period. But we will be obliged to defend ourselves in case they carried out their creep toward the mountain."

Al-Khaleej newspaper revealed that the leader of the Houthis presented a schedule to resolve the conflict between his movement and the state. This schedule lasts for 23 day in lieu of the 20-day timetable specified by the Qatar-sponsored committee assigned to implement the ceasefire agreement.

In a plan delivered to the chairman of the Qatari-delegation, Nassir Al-Ateeyah, along with other members of the presidential committee, Abdul Malik Al-Houthi declared, "The mechanism of his plan must consider the suffering of people. This mechanism must have a positive role in reducing the suffering of thousands of evacuated people. These people must have the priority to get benefit from the agreement as they were the first disadvantaged people in the war."

Al-Houthi's 23-day timetable included five

days in Haidan district. The plan called for the ceasing of fire in Juma'at Bin Fadhl, Thwaib and Jaza'a areas, in addition to ceasing the construction of barricades, descending from mountains, evacuation of the army from currently seized homes and property and returning control of villages and farms to citizens. The army must also allow displaced people to return to their villages and homes, providing those whose homes were destroyed with tents and other necessities as well as releasing detainees.

The above conditions were also to be applied to Saqeen, Razih, Kataf, Qataber, Baqem, Majaz, Al-Safra' and Sahar districts.

Additionally, Al-Houthi stated that he is ready to release detainees belonging to the army in return for the release of his followers. He hoped that the committee will review lists, which include names of mountains and mountain passes belonging to Matrah and Al-Naq'a areas. He demanded the recording of missing people as well as compensation.

Media sources revealed that the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) approved a new operation to provide food assistance to 36,000 people displaced by the conflict in Sa'ada governorate in North-west Yemen. The three-month operation, which is valued at \$1.3 million is a continuation of the organization's previous two-month operation, through which some 20,000 displaced received assistance during June and July.

The International Red Cross, in a report published at the outset of the current month, criticized what it described as a "security restriction" imposed on its movements in Sa'ada, limiting its assistance to displaced people inside the city limits and neighboring areas.

"Through WFP presence in Sa'ada and our assessment of the humanitarian situation, we

came to the conclusion that food assistance must continue; however, we anticipate that during this period, a durable ceasefire agreement and a political solution to the crisis would be reached and maintained. This would enable the displaced persons to return to their homes and resume their regular livelihood activities," Mohammed El-Kouhene, WFP representative in Yemen, stated.

The amount of displaced people increased in Sa'ada due to continued conflict in the area over the last one month. This is attributed to renewed obstacles in implementing the ceasefire agreement.

According to local sources, governmental concern for displaced people is non-existent. In the agreement signed by the government and Houthis, and sponsored by the Qatari delegation, authorities did not stipulate any conditions for returning displaced people to their homes or compensating them for damages incurred.

Forty-seven prisoners detained due to the Sa'ada crisis started an open food strike, protesting against the continuation of their detainment for months without just cause. The prisoners live in miserable conditions inside the prison.

Al-Shoura.net stated that the 47 detainees in Al-Nussairiyah city in Hajah continued their strike for the second day, aiming at pressing the authorities for their release. They have been imprisoned for more than six months without prosecution or accusations directed against them. They were all imprisoned by security forces. Authorities detained hundreds of citizens in a number of governorates, most of them students studying legal sciences in Zaidi schools or affiliated with the Zaidi sect. Detainees are said to have no relation to the war.

Al-Nussairiyah detainees are being housed

inside narrow and unsanitary cells. The prison administration does not give them enough food. Their relatives cannot visit them. There are young detainees among them. Most of the detainees belong to districts of Hajah governorate. Their relatives have appealed to the human rights organizations to assist in the release of their illegally detained relatives.

The Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms announced its solidarity with the detainees, considering detention without any direct accusation a breach of law and constitution. The organization demanded the release of the detainees, expressing its worries about the state restriction of freedom of thought and attack of the Zaidi sect. It also invited all civil society organizations to stand against such irresponsible actions, demanding particular solidarity with the relatives of Hajah detainees.

**Ash-Shayif**

All people know that those countries' regimes

practice subversion and interference in other countries' affairs in order to incite feuds and troubles."

The statement also invited all Yemeni citizens along with their respective tribes to foil the destructive objectives of the National Solidarity Council and stand against all conspiracies against the values and principles of Yemeni people.

Last month the National Solidarity Council was formed, with membership including sheikhs, academic and social figures as well as politicians and members of Parliament. Sheik Hussein Al-Ahmar was nominated chairman of the council. The council is not directed against any party or entity. It is a national and popular assembly, aiming at deepening and strengthening revolution, republic and unification among citizens and tribes.

During the Solidarity Council conference, Al-Ahmar urged people to fight corruption and maintain national unity.

# VACANCY Accountant

**For the Basic Education Development Project  
(IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)**

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of Accountant. Under the general direction of the finance manager, the Accountant will be responsible for ensuring that procedures are implemented

**Main Tasks:**

- Prepare the withdrawal applications, claims, and related governmental letters
- Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities of the Program:-
- Make the necessary vouchers and receipts for all deposits and withdrawal to and from the credit , and record them in the predefined chart of accounts in the system.
- Make a monthly replenishment of the S/A and maintain the necessary control registers for all procured civil works, goods, & technical assistance.
- Follow-up with related ministries and the Central Bank of Yemen.
- Make a monthly reconciliation of the special account and other current accounts(if any),make a necessary adjustments and monthly closing entries
- Make sure that all bank statements, withdrawal applications, claims, correspondence are properly filed and easily accessible once required.

**Qualifications:**

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting.
- Minimum of 3 years of professional experience in accounting.
- Reasonable knowledge of International Accounting Standards.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting softwares.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All Applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **Wednesday September 5, 2007**, to the following address:

**Ministry of Education  
Basic Education Development Project  
Project Administration Unit  
60 m Southern Rd. -Bait Meyad**

Tel: 00967-01-619160, Fax: 00967-01- 619219

## VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT



Medecins Sans Frontieres Spain, an international medical humanitarian NGO, is opening a programme of emergency health care & humanitarian assistance to Somali refugees in Abyan and Shabwa governorates.

To run its operations in Abyan and Shabwa, MSF Spain is looking for:

POSITIONS	MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS
Medical Doctors	Doctor degree Clinical work experience, preferably with an NGO Fluent English
Nurses	Nurse diploma Clinical work experience of two years, preferably with an NGO Fluent English
Translators Arabic/English/Somali	University degree Work experience in translation of two years Fluent English and Somali
Psycho-Social Counsellor	Certificate of health work training Clinical work experience of two years, preferably with an NGO Fluent English
Logistics Assistant	Engineer or technical degree Work experience in an INGO or international organization Computer skills Fluent English
Administration Assistant	Accounting degree Work experience in an INGO or international organization Computer skills Fluent English
Drivers	Driving license over five years Work experience as a driver in an INGO, or an international organization Good knowledge of Abyan & Shabwa governorates Fluent English
Watchmen	Work experience in an NGO Good English
Housekeeper	Work experience in an NGO Good English

Applications and curriculum must be in English

Last date for applications: **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007**  
**No application will be received later than this date**

Applications can be mailed at:

Medecins Sans Frontieres - Spain  
P.O. box 16308 Haddah post office  
Sanaa

**Please note:**

- Only selected applications will be contacted
- No phone call will be attended

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of **UNAIDS** the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions.

**1-Post Title: National UNAIDS Country Officer****Responsibilities:**

- The UNAIDS Country Officer [UCO] operates within the Resident Coordinator System to support the work of the UN Joint Team on AIDS (UNJTA).
- The primary role of the National UNAIDS Country Officer is to support the joint UN response to HIV and AIDS at country level, particularly through facilitating and strengthening the links between the UN system, government, civil society, and people living with HIV.
- The UCO ensures effective functioning of the UNJTA through organizing regular meetings, providing quality technical input to the discussions and follow up actions, disseminating and sharing information as well as strategically planning.
- The UCO follows up on the formulation and implementation of the UN Joint Programme of Support on AIDS in line with the agreement on the locally adapted Division of Labour.
- The UCO works with the Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team.
- The UCO leads the day-to-day operations of the UNAIDS office and ensures technical support on HIV, coordination and communication between the UN, government and all other relevant development partners
- Specifically, the UNAIDS Country Officer will support the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNJTA in the following areas:

**1- Civil society engagement and partnership development**

- a) Promote increased participation of all sectors of society, national and international partners, in the planning, implementation and evaluation of AIDS activities through mechanisms such as national partnership forums.
- b) Mobilize support for civil society organizations and NGOs, in particular those representing people living with HIV, to contribute to national policy and programme development.

**2- Leadership and Advocacy for effective action on the epidemic**

- a) Advocate for integration and mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS, especially through UNDAF and PRSP processes, and other major development instruments.
- b) Advocate for the emergence and affirmation of national coordinating entities (e.g. National AIDS Programme, National AIDS Councils, etc).
- c) Provide leadership and guidance on policy and strategy for a scaled-up national response.

**3- Strategic information required to guide the efforts of partners**

- a) Ensure the collation, dissemination and use of strategic information across the range of issues and themes needed to guide public policy, support the UN's advocacy efforts, and inform on technically and ethically sound policies and programmes.
- b) Facilitate the application by the UNCT of the UN Learning Strategy on HIV and AIDS, including HIV in the UN workplace programmes.

**4- Tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the epidemic and response**

- a) Promote the development and consolidation of M&E systems; facilitate coordination of Cosponsor activities for M&E systems development, including through the establishment and consolidation of mechanisms (Country Response Information Systems) to track the national efforts, financing and results.
- b) Support the development and update of a Joint UN strategy on AIDS and monitoring of a Joint UN Programme of Support on AIDS based on the UNDAF Results Matrix and on the HIV/AIDS activities related to the UN system annual workplan.

**5- Financial, technical and political resource mobilization**

- a) Identify and monitor capacity gaps; mobilise technical, financial and institutional resources to respond to needs.
- b) Support national leadership of coordinated efforts to mobilize resources, domestic and international, including from development banks, funds and foundations.
- c) Promote participatory processes for strategic allocation and utilisation of resources, supportive of national priorities and national capacity building.

**Qualification:**

- University degree in development economics, social or physical sciences, public health, public administration, management, or similar academic preparation required, and an advanced degree or equivalent is an asset.
- Experience in designing and implementing development cooperation programs, including field experience with demonstrated achievements.
- Experience in working with UN system organizations in technical programs or in public health is essential.
- Knowledge of development issues and of the application of research findings to meet the requirements of programmes.
- Thorough understanding of the HIV epidemic and its implications.
- Knowledge of the UN system organizations and their delivery mechanisms a strong asset.
- Excellent knowledge of English and of Arabic. Knowledge of other UN System official languages an asset.

**Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed terms of reference of the positions and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.**

**UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: ([hr.ye@undp.org](mailto:hr.ye@undp.org))**

**The deadline for receiving applications is Friday, 24 August 2007**

**UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**



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YEMEN



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### JOB VACANCIES

Nexen is a Canadian-based, global energy company growing value responsibly. We are strategically positioned in some of the world's most exciting regions: the North Sea, deep-water Gulf of Mexico, Middle East, offshore West Africa and the Canadian Athabasca oil sands. Nexen has attractive compensation package with a great focus on individual training and other benefits including medical coverage for the employee and his Family including parents. Nexen has job opportunities at two projects in YEMEN. Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen - Masila (BLK14) & Canadian Petroleum Yemen East Al-Hajr (BLK51).

#### 1. Completions Supervisor Trainees – CPF (Position # 0166,07-003, 07-004,07-005,07-006)

##### Job Duties:

- Perform workover operations required to maintain production
- Perform completion operations on new wells
- Ensures that the operational program is followed
- Plans for on site contingencies to minimize operational interruptions
- Plan on site logistical requirements to ensure continuous operations, without over supply or overstocking
- Oversees the service rig operations
- Initializes the new well report in DIMS and fills out the daily operational report
- Ensures that all operations are done SAFELY in accordance with Nexen policy

##### Minimum Requirements:

- 5 year's experience with service rig and downhole equipment used workover/completion operations and ESP equipment and running tools.
- Basic computer Skills
- Good knowledge of English, both oral and written

#### 2. Drilling Engineers – CPF (Position # 0773,0774)

##### Job Duties:

- Review drilling programs and related logistical issues for wells. Participate in Pre-Spud and Weekly Engineering Meeting.
- Work with Field Optimization Engineer on bit selection, BHA design, drillstring design, directional proposals, drilling parameters, mud and hydraulic properties as well as casing and liner handling/running procedures.
- Oversee and review cement jobs with the vendor and company personnel to ensure consistency between the jobs, evaluate cement job quality, and recommend optimization opportunities.
- Liaise with Logistics and suppliers to ensure that drilling equipment brought to Masila on a short-term basis is mobilized and demobilized in a timely manner.
- Monitor inventory levels and work with Logistics to ensure inventory and/or delivery times meet the requirements of the long term drilling schedule.
- Issue SAP Reservations and Purchase Requisitions for drilling equipment and materials are completed. Follow up with procurement to ensure equipment is ordered and monitor expediting and delivery schedules.

##### Minimum Requirements:

- Must have either:
- Petroleum Engineering degree and five (5) years drilling and/or completion industry experience.
- Petroleum Engineering technical diploma and seven (7) years drilling and/or completion industry experience.
- Petroleum industry training with over ten (10) years drilling and/or completion industry experience.
- Very good spoken and written English language skills.
- Excellent computer literacy in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.
- SAP and/or MEPAW training and/or logistics and purchasing skills considered an asset.
- Valid Yemeni drivers license

#### 3. IT Programmer – Sana'a (Position # 0027)

##### Job duties

- Develop customized programs and modifies existing systems using corporate standards. Tool used are Lotus Notes, Visual Basic, MS-Access, MS-SQL Server, Crystal Reports.
- Perform all necessary system maintenance, under the guidelines established by the Applications Specialist
- Provide general maintenance and integration as required for all business applications. General maintenance includes, but is not limited to, small program modifications, program fixes, report changes, file repair and ad hoc reporting.
- Follow standard project management methodology for development projects including estimating, timekeeping, and monitoring and variance explanation of man-days used.
- Perform all necessary system maintenance, under the guidelines established by the Applications Specialist, on the major applications used by departments such as Finance, Travel, Legal, Executive, Human Resources, HSE&SR, and Training. Such applications include, but are not limited to, SAP, Drive Right, Lotus Notes, OFM, and ABRA.

##### Minimum requirements

- Bachelor's degree or diploma in Computer Science or Computer Engineering.
- 3 years experience, which would include a strong programming background specifically with new PC based development tools.
- Computer skills such as Lotus Notes, Visual Basic 6, Visual Basic 2005, MS-SQL Server 2000/2005, MS-Access 2002, Oracle 9i, Visual Foxpro, Windows XP and MS-Office 2003.. Crvstal Reports

#### 4. IT Programmer/Analyst – CPF (Position # 0764,31-15)

##### Job duties

- Develop customized programs and modifies existing systems using corporate standards. Tool used are Lotus Notes, Visual Basic, MS-Access, MS-SQL Server, Crystal Reports.
- Perform all necessary system maintenance, under the guidelines established by the Applications Specialist
- Provide general maintenance and integration as required for all business applications. General maintenance includes, but is not limited to, small program modifications, program fixes, report changes, file repair and ad hoc reporting.
- Follow standard project management methodology for development projects including estimating, timekeeping, and monitoring and variance explanation of man-days used.
- Maintain MS-SharePoint environment by implementing change requests approved by department managers. Such requests include, but are not limited to, maintaining, developing and incorporating customized web applications.

##### Minimum requirements

- Bachelor's degree or diploma in Computer Science or Computer Engineering.
- 3 years experience, which would include a strong programming background specifically with new PC based development tools. Computer skills such as Lotus Notes, Visual Basic 6, Visual Basic 2005, MS-SQL Server 2000/2005, MS-Access 2003, Oracle 9i, Visual Foxpro, Windows XP and MS-Office 2003.
- Very good knowledge of English.

#### 5. Applications Specialist – CPF (Position # 32-1)

##### Job duties

- Perform all the duties of a Systems Analyst. This includes coding, compiling, debugging, testing, maintenance, documenting procedures, preparing time and cost estimates, and use of CASE (Computer Assisted Software Engineering) tools.
- Provide support to current drilling and production applications, such as DIMS and Avocet Capture
- Direct and provide application support to all Nexen Field PC & Network users.
- Perform system analysis to identify Department business requirements.
- Prepare formal studies, proposals and recommendations for application development.
- Plan, develop, evaluate and test Application prototypes and system interfaces. Execute implementation of application upgrades and modifications. Ensure that all applications are in full compliance with both IT technical standards and accepted business practices.
- Schedule and prioritize work to accommodate customer needs while minimizing impact on current operations.
- Prepare and deliver presentations on matters relating to applications, this includes procedural, technical and business issues.
- Carry out the SAP Enhancement Representative Role and is responsible for prioritizing and approving Service Requests on behalf of Yemen SAP users. Report SAP issues to the SAP Solution Centre in Calgary via Remedy.
- Provide auditors and senior staff with data extracts, report analysis and ad-hoc queries.
- Provide recommendations on technical issues to IT management. Participate in setting departmental goals and objectives
- Assist IT Staff and Supervisors (in all locations) with installation and troubleshooting of all applications.

##### Minimum requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Sciences. Fluent in English - reading, writing, and speech. Proficient at technical writing, with a strong grasp of IT terminology.
- A minimum of 6-7 years of industry experience in software application development and support, and 3-4 years of supervisory experience. Can demonstrate a consistent career path of increasing experience and responsibility in the programming environment, in association with the Petroleum business. Exposure to both Financial and Logistic systems. Exposure to Lotus Notes; Oracle based systems; Access DB's; FoxPro DB's;
- Possesses comprehensive understanding of RDMS (Relational Database Management System) concepts. Demonstrable programming skills in a variety of program languages - Visual Basic, Oracle. Extensive operational knowledge of Database related software. Specifically Oracle, Lotus Notes, Visual FoxPro; C++, VB Script, MS Access ; Conversant with accepted Project Management practices, and the use of MS Project.

❖ To Apply for this Job and for further information on the Job duties and responsibilities you can visit our website

[www.nexeninc.com/careers/yemen](http://www.nexeninc.com/careers/yemen)

❖ Applications should be submitted NO later than September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Faxed applications will not be considered.



# Youth Consultative Council: A bright initiative struggling to survive

"It's a huge step towards democracy," said Abdu Alaziz Abdu Al-Ghani who heads of the Consultative Council describing Yemeni Youth Consultative Council (YCC). Many people haven't heard of this council because of many reasons, such as lack of financial support and conflicts within the members themselves, especially between the secretary general panel and the presidential board.

So, what's this council? How does it operate? Does the council affect Yemeni youth or is it just an empty frame?

Those questions were directly taken to Walid Al-Ariqi, a 28 years old young man who is president of the council. Al-Ariqi is an accountant graduated from Sana'a University; he is working with a non-governmental organization called the Democratic Social Forum. Al-Ariqi founded and is currently heading the youth development center at the Forum. He is also the General secretary of Takamul Arab Youth Network.

Wojoud Hasan Ali Mujalli interviewed him for Yemen Times.

**Mr. Walid, first of all, thank you for taking time for this interview with us and I'd like to start by asking you about the council, what is YCC?**

Well, thank you for giving me this opportunity to explain about the youth council. YCC is a national youth organization consisting of 111 members, representing different NGOs, political parties and national education organizations. The council started as a project proposal introduced by Mr. Gamal Al-Shami head of the Democratic School to National Endowment for Democracy in USA. The project was accepted and was granted \$40,000 US. The mission of this council is to encourage the spirit of voluntary work among youth and provide them with opportunities to participate in civil society and social work. Al-Shami then directed invitations to NGOs and civil societies as well as political parties to recommend one of their members to represent them in the youth consultative council. This is how we got the diversity we have today, keeping in mind that all of this is on voluntarily basis. The members are to present studies and suggestions to enable youth to solve or recommend solutions of national issues.

**How is the council organized and managed?**

The council consists of the main committee, which is represented by the president and two vice- presidents, and there are 10 different council committees. The council committee are as follows:

Anti Terrorism and extremism committee, Anti Corruption committee, Revenge killing committee, Poverty and illiteracy fighting committee, Smoking and Qat fighting committee, Democracy and Civil Society support committee, Human Rights and freedom support committee, Media and Culture committee, Health and Environment committee, and Law and Constitution committee.

**The council's structure seems quite sophisticated, but what is the operating mechanism?**

The council holds a general meeting once every six months to discuss specific youth issues and the council's plans. The agenda of the meeting are defined by the presidential board of YCC or by the secretary general panel.

However, each committee panels holds a monthly meeting to discuss the tasks and achievements of the their committee and they operate all year round. The council issues a quarterly publication in which the activities and issues are reflected.

**Can you tell us about the recent activities of the council?**

Recently we had a seminar about terrorism in coordination with the ministry of interior. Our Anti Terrorism and extremism committee organized a seminar titled terrorism its consequences and effects and was adopted by Minister of Interior. Also our Human Rights and freedom support committee organized a

seminar in Sana'a titled "Youth where from and to where".

Our Democracy and Civil Society support committee arranged for two seminars, one with Taiz University on youth and social development, and the other with Dhamar Universities about political representation of youth in public life.

I would like to say at this point that the presidents of universities were quite helpful and cooperating with us.

We could do our activities in the beginning because each committee was given around 200\$ to carry out a single event and each committee had some training.

We are going to host a seminar in Aden in cooperation with Aden University about electronic terrorism coming week.

**So does the council face any problems?**

I'm sure that you've heard about the problem with the secretary general Mr. Gamal Al-Shami and the presidential committee. According to the internal charter, the general secretary is responsible for technical and administrative matters. The financial issues and funding must be taken care of by the finance section of the council. There had been problems in availing external funding in order to create new activities and make the council visible and useful. However, Mr. Al-Shami



A group photos of the Youth Consultative Council. Walid Al-Ariqi center of the photo behind Abdulaziz Abdul Ghani Head of the Yemeni Shoura Council.

would not allow the council members to take the initiatives financially. In fact, we feel he is trying to divide the council and recruit new members instead of the existing ones although this should council's responsibility. We are still looking to solve this problem, and we know the young men and women who gathered for this purpose and will eventually achieve their goals.

**I can see that your spirit is still high and I believe that this is the youth spirit in here but tell me how this affects Yemeni youth?**

That's an excellent question you've got in here. Actually this council tackles issues at the core of Yemeni youth society. We target problems Yemeni youth have. We welcome the youth to come to us and contribute to the council and feel it is theirs. I believe the most important objective for this council is to help youth understand that there are places for your voices to be heard and to be a true citizen and tries to understand their rights and obligations.

**Now what is your plane for the next coming months?**

Well, we're planning to have as many seminars as much as our tight budget allows. Each of the 10 committees aims to spread knowledge and educate others in

many different fields. We are suppose to have our semi meeting with the real consultative council lead by Mr. Abdul Alaziz Abdul Al-Ghani soon but we're trying to solve some of our internal issues with the secretary general as mentioned before.

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking energetic and skilled Yemeni nationals to join our core team. Following are the positions we seek candidates for:



### I. Programme Associate (Community Based Development)

#### Key Functions:

- Support the execution of the community development, micro credit, and micro enterprise development components of the Country Programme ;
- Administration and implementation of programme strategies, adaptation of processes and procedures;
- Support to management of the Country Office programme;
- Administrative support to the community-based development programmes;
- Support to development of strategic partnerships and implementation of resource mobilization strategy;
- Facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing;

#### Required Qualifications:

- A Bachelors Degree in Economics, Political or Social Sciences or another related field with relevant work experience;
- At least 3 years experience in community development, small enterprise development, micro credit or programme experience is required at the national or international level;
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages and advance knowledge of spreadsheet and database packages;
- Experience in handling of web based Enterprise Resource Planning is an asset;
- Fluency in English and Arabic Languages

### II. Programme Associate (Environment)

#### Key Functions:

- Support the execution of the environment and energy components of the Country Programme;
- Administration and implementation of programme strategies, adaptation of processes and procedures;
- Support to the management of the CO programme;
- Administrative support to the environment and energy programmes;
- Support to development of strategic partnerships and implementation of resource mobilization strategy;
- Facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing.

#### Required Qualifications:

- A Bachelors Degree in Environmental Management or Science, or another related field with relevant work experience;
- At least 3 years experience in environmental management, programming or work is required at the national or international level;
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages and advance knowledge of spreadsheet and database packages;
- Experience in handling of web based Enterprise Resource Planning is an asset;
- Fluency in English and Arabic Languages

To learn more about the above positions, please visit our website ([www.undp.org.ye](http://www.undp.org.ye) and go to Vacancies( under about UNDP Yemen) for details and instructions on how to apply.

Only candidates with the specified education and years of experience as indicated in the Job Descriptions will be considered. We look forward to receiving your application. (only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Deadline for receipt of applications is **27 August 2007**

**UNDP is an equal opportunity organization, and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**

**قناة**

**السعيدة**

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**كل الألوان**

إخبارية ثقافية إجتماعية رياضية

ترفيهية إقتصادية سياحية منوعات

على القمر الصناعي نايل سات  
التردد : ١٠٧٥٨  
الإستقطاب : عمودي  
المعدل الرمزي : ٢٧٥٠٠  
معدل تصويب الخطأ : ٤ / ٣



# Celebrations ended... problems still persisting

Is it necessary to celebrate the 29th anniversary of President Ali Abdullah's Saleh's stay in power as he assumed throne of North Yemen on July 17, 1978? This year's celebrations on July 17 were unusual. They were the greatest and the noisiest from among all the national and religious celebrations so far held in Yemen. Similarly, the official media devoted much of its programs to speeches, addresses and poems praising Mr. President and his regime.

The echo of Yemen's celebrations on the occasion reached the worst Arabic Language satellite channel, run by a Tunisian national, who is professional in flattering. Except for this notorious channel, no space television channel, be it Arab or international, said something about the July 17th anniversary being celebrated in Yemen.

Anyway, such celebrations don't justify any allegations that they drew the attention of those interested in the Yemeni affairs. They raised negative questions about the real motives behind their organization in such an exaggerated way. It appeals to the

minds of judicious people that motives behind staging the celebrations are merely meant to cover the persisting crises and problems, which the country is going through. In addition, these crises and problems increase citizens' sufferings and exacerbate their living standards.

The worst one from among the celebrations was the morning cultural activity, during which spokesman of the Yemeni Interior Ministry declared that the Ministry of Information staged the activity in front of the Cabinet, where civil community organizations were holding a sit-in. The sit-in was protesting the violations exercised against journalists and press freedom in Yemen.

The Interior Ministry's spokesman called the place, where the cultural activity and the sit-in were staged at a time, the Square of Democracy while protesters gave it the name 'Square of Liberty'.

The curious thing in the cultural



By: Ali Al-Sarari

activity, held by the Ministry of Information, is that participants came with jambias glittering in their hands and some of them brought their personal pistols with them. They attacked and beat protesters and destroyed the seats, which protesters were sitting on. They tore down the slogans, which

protesters were raising and caused various injuries among them. The educated people gathered by the Ministry of Information haven't killed any one of the protestors, who were assembling in the same manner for two consecutive days.

This kind of celebration lacks all the meanings of judiciousness and reasonability. Only lies and hypocrisy prevail the general atmosphere in the country, and disgust and disappoint people. I never believe that Mr. President, who is known for his shrewdness and cleverness, knows nothing about such facts. I believe that Mr. President is enraged by those who

fabricate facts and tell lies, and therefore reprimands and insults them. He hates all those who save no effort in exercising hypocrisy and telling lies.

As far as I am concerned, Mr. President needs to listen to the other kind of voices and then makes a distinction between what is authentic and what is machinated for deception. He is more able to examine seriousness of these voices, as well as their content.

What is mostly remarkable in this year's celebrations of July 17 is that they tried to show a negative response to the public rage, which is the result of real political crises and the poor living standards experienced by the majority of Yemen's population. Frankly speaking, such behaviors originate from a wrong hypothesis, which is based on the belief that the Yemeni people are stupid and lack the sense of differentiating between what is working well and what is not. According to this belief, the Yemeni people can be easily neglected and their feelings as well as attentions are possible to be drawn away from realizing the real problems facing them.

This country's regime is misfortunate

because its own mechanism of propaganda uses an ancient system that never cares for people and their daily issues. Instead it scorns people and inflames their feelings. Such an outdated system doesn't care for teaching people how to have more patience in the face of adversity. It only triggers people's negative reactions to trivial matters.

From the political viewpoint, the negative effects of these celebrations prove that Yemen hasn't yet obtained real democracy, particularly as we see that the countries of monarchical regimes have nothing of these celebrations. They don't care for

marking the first day of their monarch's assuming power. What they do is celebrate the national days of their independence or unity. Remorsefully, this year's July 17 celebrations took place at a time the Yemeni people were suffering very difficult political, economic, and social conditions. Yemen should have taken a lesson from what happened to the former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his regime.

*Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.*

*Source: Al-Nass Independent Weekly.*

## Between dreams of July 23rd and nightmare of June 5th

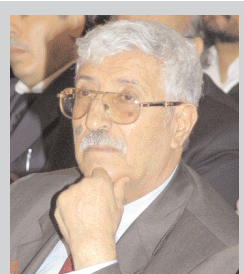
By the advent of last June – specifically in the fifth day of this month – the Arabs awoke up after being disturbed by voices of the Arab press that suffered a pessimistic day, which is the 5th of June, 1967. They marked the passage of 40 years after the tragic and painful setback that damaged the press. Some of those who never read about history and don't feel the movement of life and passage of time, believed that such a pessimistic day in the history of Arabs is still remaining tragic without any change, and they shape a bad image in their minds whenever they face the fifth of June every year.

Regretfully, the Arab press or part of it doesn't use such tragic occasion to get a useful lesson from the unprecedented defeat and read the real-life situation in light of the relevant consequences. But, they paused on this occasion to recognize the tunes of destruction and the harm of their nations. Further, they open a wider gap for punishing themselves and avenge against several glorious stages of the modern history, which started with the 23rd-of-July Revolution.

Forty years now following the tragic day, two or three generations were born

and raised after the tragedy. These generations are not held responsible for what happened 40 years ago, but they will be responsible for what will happen or take place in the days to come. The press and other media means are required to work hard on interpreting what happened in light of its own circumstances and within the frame of conspiracies and mistakes that caused the setback in case they don't get badly affected by memories of the tragedy.

No wonder, the hit was tough and painful and it is impossible for people to forget it. It is true that its consequences are still effective in the contemporary life of Arabs. Such a tragedy is not the end of the cosmos nor is it the last line in the history of a live nation that continues fighting its enemies and fiercely resists any attempt to shake its security or stability, or to damage its religious principles. This nation has strong faith that the roots of present time destructions and sufferings don't stem from the 5th of July defeatism, instead they are the result of accepting the defeat and admitting its effective



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

consequences in the life of today.

In 1973, the Arabs succeeded to overcome the tragic setback psychologically and they were about to overcome any material negatives caused by the setback, but their efforts were thwarted by the ugly treason that created new factors for the tragedy to continue for a longer period of time.

They could open the Arab and non-Arab doors for the Zionist enemies to exploit and invest the setback and extend it for a longer period of time. As a result of the ugly treason, the biggest Arab country was eliminated from the confrontation. In the meantime, the Arab press and other media means had to pause – on such a sad occasion – at this dimension and concentrate on the situation of Arab states and their peoples, who are still having strong faith in their nation and are more able to sacrifice all they have in an attempt to deter the policy of horridification and intimidation exploiting what happened in July 5, 1967. This policy also uses what happened in March 2003 in Iraq where the patriotic resistance is insisting on giving the

invaders a unique and unprecedented lesson in the global history.

For more confirmation and care for closing the files of self-punishment, as we learned from the pessimistic day of June 5, we have to be reminded that life consists of a conflict between triumph and defeat, and that June 5 defeat, though tough it had been, was an integral approach to harmony, solidarity, and understanding the risk of the enemy, which is planted deeply in the heart of the Arab citizen. The risky enemy of Arabs awoke at the suitable moment to destroy any progress or development reached by one of the Arab states.

The worst thing is that some media dared to host individuals claiming to belong to Abdunnasser's Egypt while the onlookers discovered that these people are malicious elements and suffer nearsightedness. These individuals are found to trigger animosity toward Arabs and the great July Revolution, as well as the achievements this revolution reached in the life of Arabs. It was revealed that these individuals are Pharaohs and not Arabs, and this is an introductory evidence of their being non-Muslims. Those who intentionally deny their being Arabs never hesitate to deny their being Muslims.

We would like to say to our frustrated brothers in the Egyptian land that the consecutive events throughout history tell that 'During its war in 1967, Egypt was defending the homeland and the people. It was fiercely resisting slogan of the Hebrew State, which says that 'The Israeli State extends from Euphrates to Nile', not from Yemen to Algeria. The slogan claims that it is the Israelis who constructed the Pyramids in Egypt and made the civilization of the Arab states.

Proving his distinctive presence in the world of short stories and drama writing, Sameer Abdulfatah declared his entry into the world of novel writing through the best novel of his product "Mr. M". I don't know from where Mr. Sameer got this nice language and the unique use of figurative expressions. To be brief, the Novel of "Mr. M" is an attempt to study the human soul and chaotic circumstances it is exposed to.

*Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies*

*Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily*

## COMMON SENSE

### A sincere Islamic advice

## For God's sake, let those Koreans go

This observer, along with millions of devout, faithful and sincere Moslems throughout the world, are somewhat puzzled and are often outraged by the tactics adopted by some of the self-declared Jihadists of the world. More than that, many knowledgeable Moslems are at a loss in finding jurisdictional, dogmatic and textual reference relied upon by the latter in Islamic literature, which reveal that such tactics emanate from or even fit in with conceptually. Furthermore, any true faithful Moslem would find many of the tactics employed by those who profess to be carrying the banner of Islam as actually being contrary to the interest of Islam or providing any hint of short-term or long-term support to any Islamic cause. In short, such tactics as senseless suicide bombings against non-Moslem civilians, not to mention the ones against members of the Islamic community, even if under sectarian pretexts; kidnappings of unarmed "foreigners", who have entered Moslem countries legitimately or with good and peaceful intentions; hijackings of civilian aircraft, the projection of a crude or uncivilized image and the rejection of any Moslems, who may differ in the interpretation of dogma on minor secondary issues and matters of religious doctrine all tend to reflect a serious effort to corrupt the real civilized nature of Islam and to render it unattractive to any misinformed witness or observer in these modern times. When such actions emanate from misguided Moslems, who profess to work for the restoration of an "Islamic State", which is actually viewed as having been a total failure, even if viewed outside of a Moslem context, is really problematic. Surely the failure of the Taliban regime could undoubtedly be attributed to its poor comprehension of the real essence of Islam as truly being a powerful social reform doctrine, with reason, logic and compatibility with human nature as essential elements of any application of Moslem dogma. On the other hand, any applications of Islamic dogma that fails to encompass, mercy, tolerance, respect for all people, who do not display any animosity towards Moslems is for all practical purposes absolutely incongruent with Islamic fundamental principles and render the followers of such incongruities as heretical to Moslem doctrine.

One would think that the Taliban would know all the foregoing without fail, being as they profess to be true Moslem "orthodox fundamentalists". That they would undertake such violations of Islamic principles, when they were a "state" may be rationalized (but of course not justified) by a sense of arrogance. But nevertheless such misdeeds are unforgivable in the Islamic context and surely do a great disservice to the proper reflection of true Islamic dogma. It goes without saying that the current methodology employed by self declared Jihadists, has no precedence in the actions of many generations of Moslems since the time of the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), who, as the Holy Quran states "was sent as a mercy for all the Universes". In this context then, it would be viewed as being self-defeating, if improprieties such as the kidnapping of the 22 Korean hostages would be construed as being in service to their declared cause of liberating Afghanistan, not to mention such an act being totally incongruent with Moslem teachings.

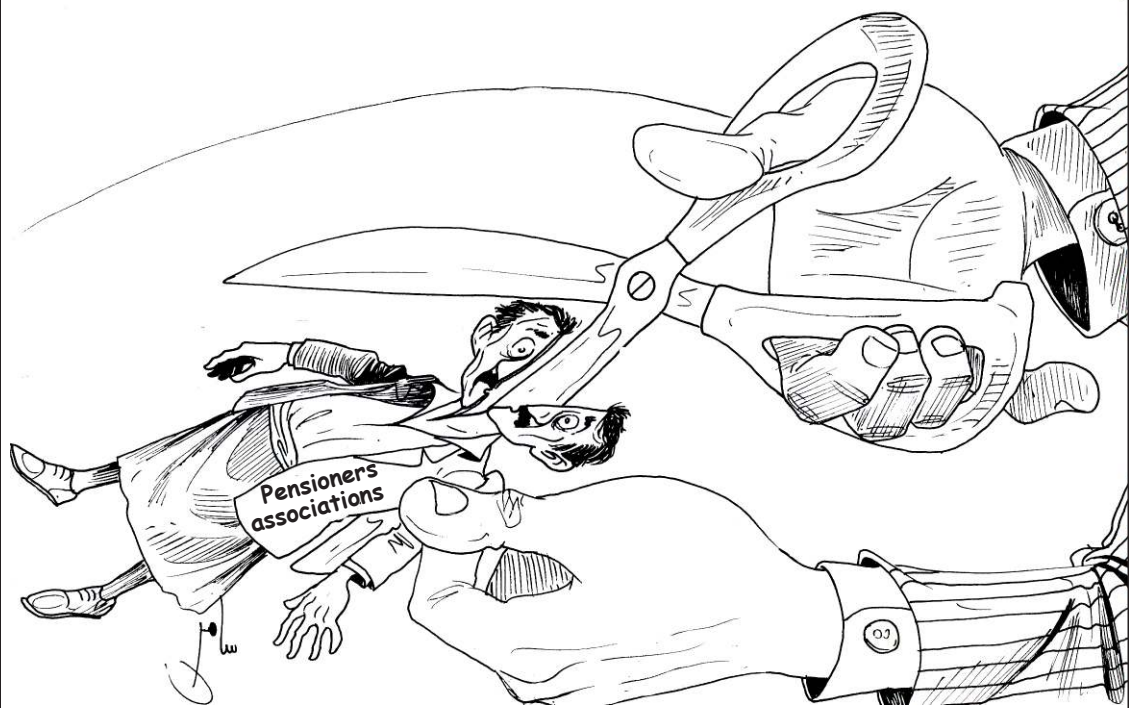
As long as those who wish to carry the banner of Islam continue to fail to understand their own religion, then it is hard to believe that the Al-Mighty would ever think of supporting them or bringing them any closer to their goals. For sure, the overwhelming majority of Moslems find no rationale in Islam or any other dogma for the kidnapping of foreign hostages, even if they are of a different faith, and would hope that the Taliban and all these so called Salafi persuasions would go back to studying Islam its true and fundamental teachings and learn from the ways that the true faithful Salaf (i.e., early Moslem predecessors) truly conducted themselves in war and in peace, if they want to convince the world if their genuine affiliation with Islam, and of the justice of their struggle.

Up to now, it is not easy to see any of this as being understood by the Taliban. Maybe they could facilitate this with the immediate release of all the remainder of the hostages and with a sincere apology to the Korean people, as well as to the Moslems of the world for their horrific deviation from the faith. Otherwise Islam would do much better without the Taliban and any of their like, who have become a great menace to Islam, not to mention their chronic failure at advancing the interests of Islam and of Moslems just about anywhere they operate in the world.

<sup>1</sup> Interpreted also as "all the worlds", but implying all the worlds created by God, as Islam is projected to be a universal creed meant for all creations of God Almighty.

*Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.*

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer

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Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

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# America's day of reckoning

By: Joseph E. Stiglitz

The pessimists who have long forecasted that America's economy was in for trouble finally seem to be coming into their own. Of course, there is no glee in seeing stock prices tumble as a result of soaring mortgage defaults. But it was largely predictable, as are the likely consequences for both the millions of Americans who will be facing financial distress and the global economy.

The story goes back to the recession of 2001. With the support of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, President George W. Bush pushed through a tax cut designed to benefit the richest Americans but not to lift the economy out of the recession that followed the collapse of the Internet bubble. Given that mistake, the Fed had little choice if it was to fulfill its mandate to maintain growth and employment: it had to lower interest

rates, which it did in an unprecedented way – all the way down to 1%.

It worked, but in a way fundamentally different from how monetary policy normally works. Usually, low interest rates lead firms to borrow more to invest more, and greater indebtedness is matched by more productive assets.

But, given that overinvestment in the 1990's was part of the problem underpinning the recession, lower interest rates did not stimulate much investment. The economy grew, but mainly because American families were persuaded to take on more debt, refinancing their mortgages and spending some of the proceeds. And, as long as housing prices rose as a result of lower interest rates, Americans could ignore their growing indebtedness.

In fact, even this did not stimulate the economy enough. To get more people to borrow more money, credit standards were lowered, fueling growth in so-called "subprime"

mortgages. Moreover, new products were invented, which lowered upfront payments, making it easier for individuals to take bigger mortgages.

Some mortgages even had negative amortization: payments did not cover the interest due, so every month the debt grew more. Fixed mortgages, with interest rates at 6%, were replaced with variable-rate mortgages, whose interest payments were tied to the lower short-term T-bill rates. What were called "teaser rates" allowed even lower payments for the first few years: they were teasers, because they played off the fact that many borrowers were not financially sophisticated, and didn't really understand what they were getting into.

And Alan Greenspan egged them to pile on the risk by encouraging these variable-rate mortgages. On February 23, 2004, he pointed out that "many homeowners might have saved tens of thousands of dollars had they held adjustable-rate mortgages rather than

fixed-rate mortgages during the past decade." But did Greenspan really expect interest rates to remain permanently at 1% – a negative *real* interest rate? Did he not think about what would happen to poor Americans with variable-rate mortgages if interest rates rose, as they almost surely would?

Of course, Greenspan's behavior meant that under his watch, the economy performed better than it otherwise would have. But it was only a matter of time before that performance became unsustainable.

Fortunately, most Americans did not did not follow Greenspan's advice to switch to variable-rate mortgages. But even as short-term interest rates began to rise, the day of reckoning was postponed, as new borrowers could obtain fixed-rate mortgages at interest rates that were not increasing. Remarkably, as short-term interest rates rose, medium- and long-term interest rates did not, something that was referred to as a "conundrum." One

hypothesis is that foreign central banks that were accumulating trillions of dollars finally figured out that they were likely to be holding these reserves for years to come, and could afford to put at least some of the money into medium-term US treasury notes yielding (initially) far higher returns than T-bills.

The housing price bubble eventually broke, and, with prices declining, some have discovered that their mortgages are larger than the value of their house. Others found that as interest rates rose, they simply could not make their payments. Too many Americans built no cushion into their budgets, and mortgage companies, focusing on the fees generated by new mortgages, did not encourage them to do so.

Just as the collapse of the real estate bubble was predictable, so are its consequences: housing starts and sales of existing homes are down and housing inventories are up. By some reckonings, more than two-thirds of the increase in output and employment

over the past six years has been real estate-related, reflecting both new housing and households borrowing against their homes to support a consumption binge.

The housing bubble induced Americans to live beyond their means – net savings has been negative for the past couple of years. With this engine of growth turned off, it is hard to see how the American economy will not suffer from a slowdown. A return to fiscal sanity will be good in the long run, but it will reduce aggregate demand in the short run.

There is an old adage about how people's mistakes continue to live long after they are gone. That is certainly true of Greenspan. In Bush's case, we are beginning to bear the consequences even before he has departed.

*Joseph Stiglitz is a Nobel laureate in economics. His latest book is Making Globalization Work. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.*

# No laughing matter

By: Ray Hanania

In the post Sept. 11th world, I learned several things. It is easier to hate a stranger than to hate someone you know. And, anger often appears as "hate" when coupled with excessive fear and lack of knowledge.

There is a rising sense of hatred, of "anger gone wild" in America against Arabs and Muslims because of Sept. 11. And there seems to be a growing resignation among Palestinians and Israelis that peace and compromise are no longer possible.

Peace and compromise are always possible. What has changed, though, is attitude. People are discouraged by the unending violence, the failure of the peace process, and the increased

negative rhetoric and speech.

Do we just stand by and allow extremists to control us? Or do we take unorthodox steps to remind everyone that we are both human beings and that peace and compromise are in fact the only alternatives to the conflict and violence?

After Sept. 11, I decided to turn to the most powerful form of communication that exists between human beings. Humour. Not just any kind of humour, but stand-up comedy. Stand-up comedy is a controlled kind of humour, involving social satire and sometimes biting commentary, which not only seeks to entertain but to deliver important messages.

Humour alone can't resolve conflicts like the decades-long Palestine-Israel conflict, but it can change attitudes. It

can restore a person's belief in the humanity of the other people. It can cause people to see each other in a positive way that can nurture improved relations. If people can laugh together, we can live together.

I first tested the theory in a show in East Jerusalem in Oct. 2004, at the residence of the American Consul General. More than 75 Israelis and Palestinians attended.

To press the need to bring humour to Palestinians and Israelis, I co-founded with Israeli comedian Charley Warady the Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour (www.IPCComedyTour.com), also appearing with Israeli comic Yisrael Campbell and African American Jewish comedian Aaron Freeman.

In January and again in June, we performed 10 shows in Israel for mixed

but mostly Israeli audiences, and in East Jerusalem for mostly Palestinian audiences. In May, The Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour performed in Toronto, Canada for more than 1,200 people, mostly Jews and Palestinians.

There has been some opposition. Some Israeli comedians said they couldn't appear with me because it might harm their careers.

For Arabs, appearing on stage with "Israelis" is considered haram (against values) and is not the same as appearing with "Jewish comedians." Five Arab organizations cancelled my scheduled performances for them in the two weeks after returning from the first tour in Israel and Palestine. Other Palestinian and Muslim comedians have blacklisted me from their festivals and TV shows.

I don't mind the rejection because the

acceptance is overwhelming.

After the 2004 show, the consul general said it was "the first time in three years" Palestinians and Israelis had come together in the same room. After the Toronto show, the auditorium's entrance filled with hundreds of Palestinians and Jews who actually talked and laughed together.

**We need to do more of that.**

During the January tour, a suicide bombing in Eilat made us question whether we should continue. We decided we had to continue because we would not allow one terrorist or a group of extremists to control our lives.

The violence of a few should be reprimanded to the few. We must strive to believe that the majority of Israelis and Palestinians who are not involved in

the violence are people who are angered and frustrated but not necessarily hateful of others.

We went on with our shows reminding audiences that the terrorists and extremists do not speak for the majority of Palestinians or Israelis.

We can have compromise and peace if we stop demonising each other; the best way to do that is through humour.

And that's no joke.

*Ray Hanania is an award-winning Palestinian-American syndicated columnist and a stand-up comedian based in Chicago. He can be reached at rayhanania@aol.com. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.*

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# Fisheries Industry: Not doing so good

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf  
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Although Yemen has a long coastline stretching for over 2000 kilometers across the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arab Sea, Yemen's marine wealth has been facing a number of obstacles towards proper utilization of this asset. Yemen's marine wealth is estimated at 850 thousand tones allowing the production of 350-400 thousand tones per annum to maintain sustainability; however, Yemen's annual production did not exceed 290 thousand tones, mainly generated through the unorganized fishing sector consisting of around 65,000 fishermen according to official numbers.

Furthermore, the remote governorate of Al-Mahara, which accommodates around 90,000 people (0.45 percent of population), is responsible for producing around 98.1 thousand tones of fisheries, estimated at over 41.5 percent of the country's total fisheries production, while other coastal governorates such as Hodieda and Aden are responsible for 9 percent and 4.9 percent of fisheries production respectively.

It is noted that Al-Mahara's fisheries production been growing in spite of the limited government interference and the underdeveloped financial and services infrastructure which might be offered to fishermen, apart from the non-existence of private-sector

enterprising initiatives which can develop the fishing industry in the governorate. This fact indicates that Al-Mahara governorate has promising potential to further increase the production of fisheries, while showing the strong contrast with the production of other governorates.

## Corrupt Ministry of Marine Wealth

A recent parliamentarian report accused the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Wealth of being the biggest obstacle against the development of the fisheries industry in Yemen, the report accuses the ministry of issuing and renewing licenses to local and foreign fishing companies to fish within 4 and 5 miles from the coast, in spite of an existing law which forbids issuing licenses for fishing companies within 21 miles from the coast. Marine experts indicate that shallow waters are breeding grounds for many types of fish as it protects them from sea currents, while fishing within this area is hazardous to the reproduction of fish and seriously diminishes the sustainability of marine wealth.

The report also listed many violations by the Ministry of Marine Wealth including the leasing of a research vessel, which was donated by an international donor to the center of Marine research, to a commercial fishing company, one of the companies which were granted licenses to fish within the forbidden fishing zone.

Complaints and reports of incidents where commercial fishing vessels have



been shooting at local fishermen in territorial waters in order to scare them away, reports stated that at least one fisherman was killed and tens were injured of such incidents, many of which have been reported to the Ministry but no action has been taken by the Ministry to follow up or gather details in this regard.

Several sources at fishermen associations has accused the Ministry of conspiring against Yemeni fishermen, claiming that the Ministry

is simply an agent working for International fishing companies, including Jordanian, Thai, and other Asian companies, however, they refused to give more information about such allegations.

## MP demands a supreme council for fisheries

Member of Parliament AbdulKarim Shaiban has told media sources that he demands the set-up of a supreme council for fisheries which should have authority over the Ministry in order to 'rectify the wrongs' and administer the country's marine wealth, Shaiban held the Ministry responsible for the damage affecting the fishing industry and the inefficient management of the funds allocated to the Ministry.

He said: "Millions upon millions of dollars have been spent in order to build and reform this Ministry, but it is hopeless, the many organizations this Ministry has set up in order to undertake fishing activities and provide further funding for the government, so far the returns have been less than 0.25 percent and we are very disappointed to see all funds going to this Ministry going down the drain."

He also added: "take for example Nashtun fishing port which coasted the government US\$ 40 million, it was set up and funded after a detailed proposal that this port will revive fishing but the port has not been operational since construction."

## Say what?

The 2006-2010 third poverty reduction plan allocated over 32.3 billion Riyals as planned investments in the fisheries sector, including 10.5 billion Riyals of donor funds which are expected during the years 2006-2010. the largest chunk of these funds are allocated to the coastal development program which aims at providing government support for traditional and unorganized fishermen, using funds exceeding 13.3 billion Riyals over the span of four years.

Another 9.5 billion Riyals have been allocated to the Program for Fisheries development, a program with a scope limited to monitoring regional waters, buying more vessels and technical research equipment to know more about Yemen's ecological and marine wealth. While the third program was allocated 8.17 billion Riyals to research is basically a turnaround strategy that aims at providing a vision towards better economic management of fishing organizations and developing fishing ports as well as storage facilities.

The remaining amount goes to the ministry of marine wealth; it

specifically states that it will be used in building more buildings, buying more vehicles, and, of course, acquiring a state-of-the-art information database.

## Minister: I'll do better

Minister of Fisheries and Marine Wealth Mohammed Sagheri has promised the Parliament that he will look into the problems and issues within the Ministry that impede developing the fisheries industry,

promising to implement all the suggestions the Parliament's report highlighted including implementing the fisheries law, which seemed to many Parliament Members as a good idea. The Yemen-Times has tried repetitively to contact the Ministry to verify several other allegations of corruption claimed by fishermen's associations, however, there was no cooperation from the Ministry's officials.

## Business in Brief

### US\$ 168 million from Saudi Development Fund to Yemen

Yemen's Ministry of International Cooperation has signed three cooperation agreements with the Saudi Development Fund totaling US\$ 168 million. The first agreement totaling US\$ 100 million will fund the construction of Mareb's second Gas power-generating plant, while the second, US\$ 50 million, will be used to equip several vocational training facilities which the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has constructed previously in Yemen. the last agreement will be used to furnish the Heart department in Aden Hospital.

### Saleh hires more officials for Fisheries Ministry

President Saleh has issued a presidential decree where he hires eight deputy ministers and under secretaries for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine wealth in order to boost the performance of the ministry, as well as the set up of a new additional authority for marine studies.

### PM: Welcome gulf investors

Prime Minister Mujawar has welcomed a delegation of gulf businessmen and investors, who came representing the Riyadh-based Yemeni-Gulf businessmen council which was recently established. The goal of the visit is to discuss with Yemeni officials the facilities and offers which will be given to gulf-based investors.

### Report: Global increase in wheat prices

A report published by the ministry of trade quoted that the United States Wheat Association stated that the current prices for wheat stand at 253 dollars per tone, compared to 150 dollars per tone last year, while shipping costs increased from 50 dollars per tone last year to 92 dollars this year.

### Saleh instructs using reserves for development

President Saleh stated that he has given instructions to the government to use one billion dollars

of the general foreign currency reserves to Generate Electricity, and another billion dollars to provide urgent employment opportunities to reduce unemployment. This was stated at the opening session of the Agricultural cooperative conference held on the 13th.

### Yemen Gas Company: 1.4 million LPG cylinders available

The Yemen Gas Company has stated that it has over 1.4 million Liquefied Petroleum Gas cylinders available at its warehouse facilities, to be used as a strategic reserve in the event of increased demand on LPG gas for cooking, especially since the holy month of Ramadhan is approaching soon.

### Recycling Plant in Al-Hodieda

An agreement was signed in order to establish a recycling plant for solid metals in Hodieda at an initial cost of 93 million Riyals. The agreement was signed by governor of Hodieda Mohammed Shamlan and Saudi investor Saleh Al-Sherhan.

### Cabinet approves government imports of foodstuff

The cabinet has approved a mechanism in which the government interferes in the local market and imports foodstuff to be sold to Yemeni consumers at cost price. This measure was undertaken in order to limit the oligopoly controlling the foodstuff market in Yemen by selected businessmen, especially with regards to the wheat and flour trade.

### Agricultural Exports target new markets

Sources at the Cooperative Agricultural Union has stated that the union and in cooperation with a number of donors and NGOs as well as the Ministry of Agriculture stated that they are working on developing a mechanism in order to boost Yemen's agricultural imports targeting regional markets. This mechanism will include packaging, storage, and wholesaling of agricultural commodities in an organized fashion that limits overheads and decreases waste.

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صنعاء

Position: Receptionist

Report to: Administrative/Financial Specialist

### Summary:

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3. Provides clerical support to staff as needed, such as, photocopying materials, data entry, maintaining office forms file.
4. Provide any administrative support to the office as required.
5. Performs other duties as needed.
6. Performs secretarial duties including routine correspondence to the USAID and other contractors, sending out receiving and distributing faxes, maintain a filing system on various subjects

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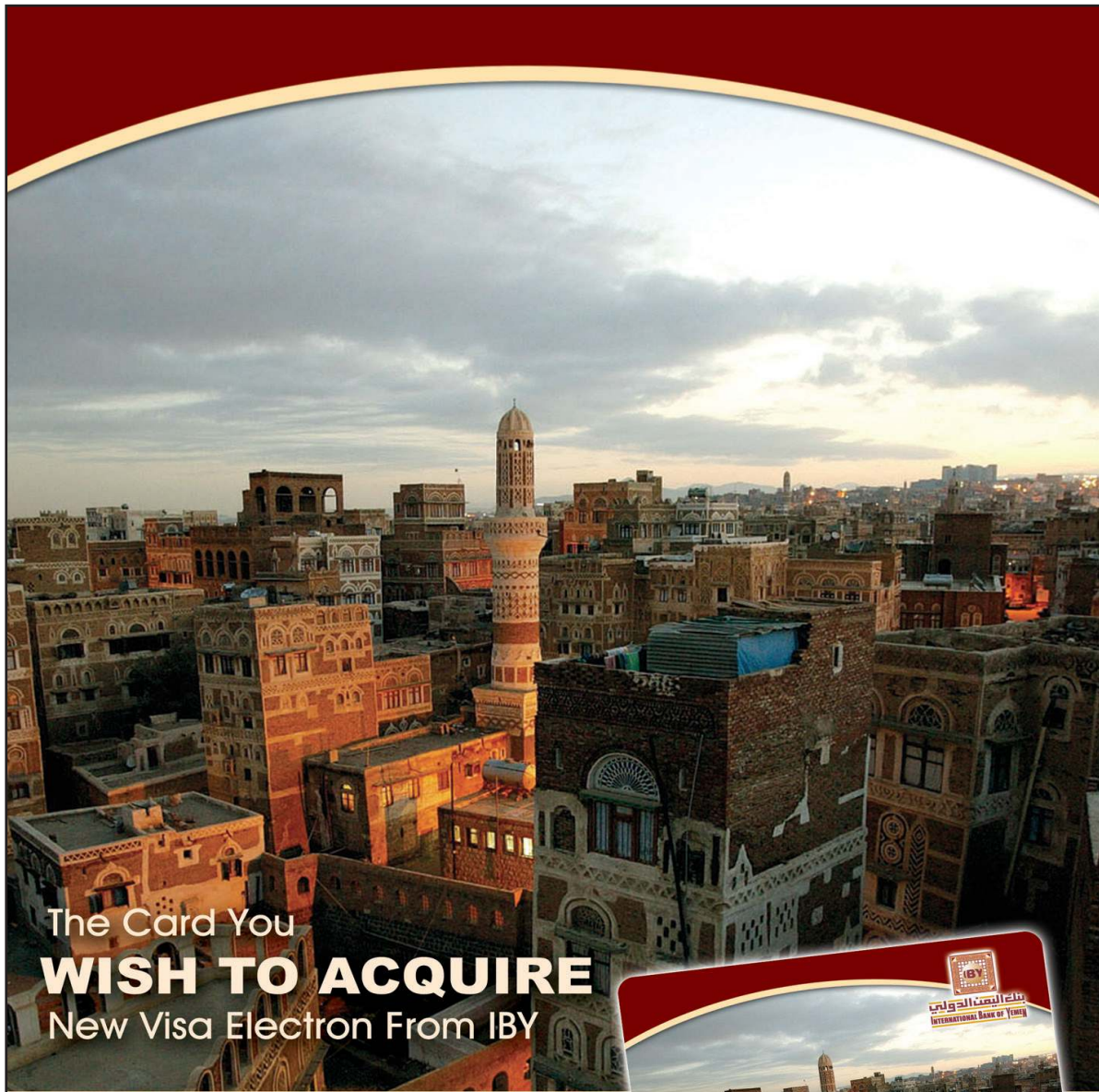
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# Mendicants

Written by :Adel Hassan ALadlany  
English language graduate  
Amran Faculty

“What should be done about all beggars on the streets?” this is an important question which deserves a serious answer. This is rather considered one of the problems that the Yemeni community faces daily. What a pity! To see people extended their hands for others in a painful way, especially those youngsters. O God! My heart breaks down and my eyes flow a river of tears when I see them abandoned by their parents or any one of their close relatives, obliged to beg.

To deal with this complex complication we need first to realize

the cause(s) of it. As I see that every country has an allocation of this problem, but it is different in our country. In Yemen, we notice that the reasons that stand behind having beggars on streets may be limited to three main reasons.

The first reason is destitution. We know that the Yemeni society is divided into three classes of living. The first is the high class in which there are people living in prosperity and welfare. They are usually known as managers, supervisors, businessmen, merchants etc. But, some of them might be psychologically insecure and this is due to their destructive and dictatorial actions.

The second class is the middle one, which includes people who do their best to maintain good living, while the third class is the low one in which we find people suffering financially and

socially. They work harder than the other two classes. Most people of this category are farmers, laborers, fishermen, and beggars, who are mostly exposed to the rough waves of life such as tempestuous weather, diseases and disasters. Nevertheless, they are the most secure class, as the scientific researches and wise men believe.

The second reason is the poor education. Education has an indispensable position in determining which path human may get in. Effective and good education can help people get better income. Therefore, people can have the chance to improve their living standards if they are well-educated and well-qualified.

The third reason is the separation of family. For instance, suppose that there are problems between mother and father, which might be solved wrongly,

of course, by divorce. Do you think that the children may be static in the house? It is obvious that they leave it, particularly if there is no concern about them. For, children's instincts should be satisfied positively, otherwise, they will go astray.

The Islamic religion dealt with this problem of poverty with various means and mediums. For example, alms giving, prescribed by Islam, could treat destitution to a great extent. It gives the needy their rights out of the well-to-do's wealth. In other words, Islamic curriculum is the intermediate between the ideologies of capitalism and socialism.

Besides that, there are governmental programs that aim at creating or constructing public and private funds for dealing with poverty such as the Social Fund. Hopefully, they will succeed.

# Neo Warfare

By: Ivan Simic  
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Belgrade, Serbia

In our World, there are lots of countries, nations, languages, religions, cultures, costumes but also lots of disagreements. History has it that there was never peace and respect among nations since the formation of the first State. From the beginning of the first conflict till date, wars have been fought for the same cause: political differences, trade, religion, liberation, dynasty, seizure of territory, the annihilation of a rival State, the destruction of the enemy's ability to prosecute military action, revolution or genocide.

We can recall aggressive War of Alexander the Great, nine Crusade Wars, Spanish Succession, Hundred Years' War (France-England), American Civil War, or 20<sup>th</sup> century wars; World Wars I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Iran-Iraq War, Gulf War, Yugoslav War, among others.

There was not yet a single year without war in history known to mankind;

and it seems mankind was yet to learn bitter lessons from centuries of fighting and conflicts; wars had never brought anything good to nations and countries. Currently, in contemporary days there are thirty two (32) ongoing wars which are being fought around the World. These include: Sri Lanka Civil War, Second Chechen War, War in Afghanistan, Civil War in Cote d'Ivoire, Central African War, Iraq War, War in Somalia, age-old Arab-Israel/Israel-Palestine (including al-Aqsa Intifada) conflict, among others.

Wars are now being fought in underdeveloped regions without any serious threat of spreading to neighboring countries, thought that may soon change. The World is altering, and countries are developing with the formation of new Unions, financial help and foreign investments. Very soon the World will be without the so-called Third World Countries, and without territories to start war. Would that signal the end of wars, or usher in new form of modern warfare into the World?

According to these facts and enormous velocity and evolution of the

World, in the future we can expect more wars; wars that will be fought between industrial countries. These wars may not take place in our lifetime, but it offers mankind some food for thought which calls for critical thinking and preventive actions. It looks as though some countries are not recognized and their voice is not heard so they use all necessary means to be heard even if it meant the use of force, start war and take some lives along that path. Consequently, it behoves on the United Nations to get serious in its business and invite all countries to become members of the world body and make them discuss issues of concern in diversified arena in peaceful and understanding way, rather than sorting issues out in the battlefield.

The question which then arises is: which country, will, first start that war and on which ground it will begin? It is very hard to predict, but as before, it will, most probably begin in Europe and not in the Middle East as many would think.

In Europe, the European Union (EU) is, financially, the strongest and one of the biggest multi-ethnic and multicultur-

al community in the World. But because of too many differences and inability of some members to agree on future political and financial issues, the EU may become unstable, and eventually collapse. Since the EU has enormous influence on many countries, its collapse will start a chain of destabilizations and race for domination. It looks like that history will repeat it self, just that it will cost more.

Contrary to this, the main goal of every country should be to preserve national identity, culture, religion, and of course, financial development, but as long as we have political differences and disrespect for other religions and cultures we will not have peace among nations. If we put these differences a side and focus on helping each other, perhaps there could be a chance to maintain stability in the World.

Time will come when all countries will get united for greater and peaceful goal, but that may come rather too late, though it will foster some degree of unity and understanding as never witnessed before.

## THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE



## Do you know why 'Ladies first'?

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy  
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It is common to hear the expression 'ladies first'. Women, in particular, daily repeat it as if it is a rule. They actually feel proud of it, unknowing its origin and its real indications. They think it is praise to them, while it is a shame to be said according to its origin.

The story of this saying took place in Italy. It is about two lovers who loved each other so much. They decided to marry. But some social circumstances and relatives block the way of their marriage. They did not accept this and intentionally decided either to live together as husband and wife, or to die together.

Having done best to achieve the marriage, they got disappointed. Dying together was the only option. They thought about a number of ways to commit the suicide.

Throwing themselves into the sea was the appropriate way to them. The man sincerely said he would not bear the situation of seeing her drowning to death in front of his eyes. He convinced his beloved that he would throw himself first and then she would do so latter.

In the rush moment, the man did it and drown. The lady was looking at him as if he was 'singing'. The man was dead. It was the lady's turn to follow him to live together underneath, as they decided. But she soon broke her promise, forgetting her sweetheart who was dying in front of her eyes and in heart as well.

She 'threw herself back to the village'. Yes! Her promise was to throw herself. And she did, but to the village instead of the sea.

She came back home, to her relatives as if nothing has happened. Few days later, she fell in love with another man. She was happy with him as if it was her first love. It did not take a lot of time till she got married to him.

Since then, people start doubting ladies and start repeating the saying 'ladies first', with the implication that ladies should throw themselves into the sea first, should die first, because they are not trustworthy.

It is really interesting when one hears a lady proudly says 'ladies first', thinking that she adds a privilege for being a female.

Some people, men and women, take it as a social rule, unknowing its real indications.

This is not a personal point of view. It is not, moreover, a personal interpretation of the story. It is what many sources say and interpret the original story. So, women please forgive me for shedding light on this.

I do only a favor for women so that to be aware of when to say 'ladies first' and when not to say. For me, I don't care if I hear a woman saying this. I may ignore or pretend deafness. But others may take it a matter of satire.

Having known this, women may reject this saying. They may claim that 'Ladies last' is better.

This saying has been common for several years. And men never reject it. Though the proverb has a negative implication on women, men do really accept it as it is, following it as a matter of respect to women whenever they come across.

See the difference, men do not feel teased whenever women shout for being 'the first', unknowing its real implications. But the case is taken differently by women when the verse happens.

In spite of this, men will not change their respect and intimacy to women. They will take women to be first when they positively look at 'ladies first'. And similarly, they will insist to make 'ladies last' when it is negative to put them at first. The problem, however, lies in women themselves who do not accept everything normally as it is.

Women claim to be first. They do not take it normally whether to be first or last. Men, on the other hand, accept women to be first not for the saying 'ladies first' but for the social respect of men towards women.

So it is only a matter of respect. It is not a rule, and it is better to be not a rule because it will be a negative aspect of women.

Spotlighting on this is not to provoke the matter between men and women. But it is to learn a lesson that both are 'first and both can be last'. There must be mutual acceptance and integration between the two sexes. So this is a call firstly for women, because of "ladies first", and secondly for men to look at the matter through the mind's eye.

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- 6) Apply UNFPA M&E guidelines, tools, and approaches and ensure their application;
- 7) Coordinate and participate in the regular and ad-hoc monitoring field visits as well as prepares feedback reports with recommendations;
- 8) Develop and maintain a roster of national/international experts and institutions qualified in the area of M&E;
- 9) Coordinate and facilitate technical missions related to M&E activities;
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**سيارات**

- شوقي أمين - ثانوية عامة
- سنة ثالثة تجارة (قسم محاسبة) - جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر
- خبرة في مجال المخازن لمدة ست سنوات(أمين مخازن - مراقب مخازن - مشتروات متابعه) نوع المخزن (مخازن مستشفى - مخازن مصنع - مخازن الكترونيات)- يبحث عن عمل مناسب.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢
- بكالوريوس برمجة (جامعة - SMU - الهند) - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابةً ونطقاً - مراسلات عبر الإنترنت - حاصل على شهادات(-) PC hardware - mcse-networking - oracle - يبحث عن عمل في مجال تخصصه.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩٩١٣٩٩
- متخصص في إدارة المكاتب والمراسلات التجارية والبنكية - يرغب في العمل مع شركة ممتازة أو بنك.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٤٨٨٨٥

**مفقودات**

فُقدت بطاقة شخصيه صادره من الأمانة بإسم : رمزي عبده محمد النجار. يُرجى على من يجدها الإتصال على الرقم التالي: ٧١١٢.٨١٠٠

**كوبون للإعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)**

بيع شراء إيجار إستئجار طلب وظيفة وظائف شاغرة غير ذلك

**تفاصيل الاعلان:**

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣)

**مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي**  
للخدمات العقارية  
حده - الحى السياسي -الأصحي - بيت بوس  
سيار: ٢٨٥٥٠ ٧٣٣٨٠

إحتراف المهنة العقارية منذ ١٩٨٠ ، كفاءة ، معرفة ودرايه.

\* تأجير الفلل والمباني للأجانب منذ ١٩٩٠م.

في الحى السياسي وحده . ووسعنا نشاطنا الخمس الماضيه إلى بيت بوس والأصحي .

\* بيع وشراء عقارات سكنيه وتجاريه ، أراضي ومباني .

\* مؤهل لخدمتكم في الأنشطة العقاريه الأخرى .

١- التثمين العقاري بأسلوب علمي ومنطقي مع الأخذ بعين الإعتبار للتحسينات والتشطيبات وأيضاً الأهلاك الزمني للمباني أما الأرض فلا تهلك ولاتحرق .

٢- دراسات ميدانيه لغرض الإستثمار العقاري .

٣- مقارنات الأسعار في البيع أوالشراء أو الإيجارات

٤- إدارة الإستثمار العقاري . للعقار المؤجر بالدولار

٥- إستشارات عقاريه ....

نسعى لتقديم الأفضل والأحسن في مجال الخدمات العقاريه

**وظائف شاغرة**

- تعلن مدارس طيبة التربوية عن حاجتها إلى مدرس للغة الإنجليزية، ومدرس لمادة الإجتماعيات للمرحلة الأساسية. فمن يجد في نفسه الرغبة التقدم إلى الفرع الرئيسي: (السنينة - جوار كلية الناصر للعلوم الطبية - هاتف ٣- ٢١١٩٦٢

**باحثون عن وظيفة**

- عبد الإله - بكالوريوس حاسوب - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابةً ونطقاً - خبرة في المراسلات التجارية - عمل لسنوات في تنصيب وبرمجة شبكات وصيانة الحاسوب - عمل لسنوات في برمجة الحاسوب.
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٩٠٩٦٩٠
- أحمد - خبرة وكفاءة في المراسلات التجارية والعلاقات الخارجية - إجادة تامة لأعمال الترجمة الفورية والكتابية - يرغب في العمل في الفترة المسائية.
- للتواصل: ٧١٢٦٦٠٦٠٠

**الانظمة**  
**IMPORTANT Numbers**  
للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على  
تجوية ٢١١ ٣٦٨٦٦١

طوارئ الكهرباء ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة ١٩٩، الإطفاء ١٩١، طوارئ المياه ١٧١، الإستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرو) ١٩٤، الشؤون الخارجية ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧، الشؤون الداخليه ١/٧، ٢٥٢٧، الهجرة ٢٥٠٧٦١/٣، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٢٠٢، الإذاعة ٢٨٠٦١، التلفزيون ٣٣٢٠٠١/٢، مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات ١/٢/٣، ٢٢٥١١٠، السياحة ٢٢-٢٥٤، الصليب الأحمر ٢٠٢١٣١/٣، تليمن ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

**\$ البنوك**

بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ ت: ١-٢٦.٨٢٣-٩٦٧  
فرع عدن ت: ٢٣٧٨٢٩-٢٠ فاكس/٢٣٧٨٢٤  
البنك التجاري ت: ٢٧٧٢٤ فاكس : ٢٧٧٢٤١  
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٦٤٧٥،٢٦٤٧٠٢ فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٣٥،٢٦٤٧٠٣٥  
بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٤٠٧٠٤٠٠-٠١  
البنك العربي ت: ٢٧٦٥٥/٢-٠١  
بنك التسليف الزراعي ت : ٠١-٥٢٢٨١٣  
البنك المركزي: ت: ٢٧٤٣١٤-٠١

**تأجير سيارات**

زاوية ( Budget ) ت: ٢٠٩٦١٨٠٥٠٦٣٧٢ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨  
يورب كار ت: ٢٧٠٧٥١ فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤  
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صماء ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩  
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٥٩٥٥  
عدن ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٢٢٥

**مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر**

أتيك لتعليم الكمبيوتر(تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١.

صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٢٨٣٠٥  
فاكس : ٠١-٤٠٧٤١٩  
عدن ت: ٢٠٠٣٣٧١٩٩  
فز ت: ٤٠٢٥٠٣٤٣  
المكلا ت: ٠٥٠٣٠٧٤٩٢

T :444553  
Infinitt Education  
ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

**البريد السريع**

صنعاء ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧  
الحديدة ت: ٢٤٩٨٢  
إب ت: ٤١١٩٨٨  
المكلا ت: ٣٠٢٦٤١  
شبه ت: ٢٠٢٢٢٦  
سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

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## Sana'a Summer Festival: A tourist attraction with hope for the future

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri  
For Yemen Times

Sana'a Summer Festival activities continued in Al-Saba'een garden with participation of various Yemeni and foreign artists. Showcases included Tahami Zaraneq, folklore bands, Hadhrami Dan groups as well as "Egyptian Enlightenment," Jordan heritage, a Chinese show, and French parachute and motorbike shows.

Sana'a Summer Festival 2007 commenced with a carnival march including participation of thousands of men, women and children in Al-Saba'een Square, the most crowded festival yet to take place in the city.

Nabeel Al-Faqih, minister of tourism, said, "Sana'a Summer Festival is organized by the Ministry of Tourism during the period from July 16 to August 16, 2007. The ministry aims at making Sana'a Summer Festival a unique festival among other festivals. It includes all the festivals through expanding the national and international participation in its activities."

The numerous, cultural, traditional, craft and tourist activities of the festival reflect the Yemeni tourist variety.

Ali Sowaid, one of the festival organizers, stated, "Sana'a Summer Festival is the first one which depicts strategically tourist perspective, serving the tourist sector. It aims at involving and attracting Arab tourists especially those coming from Gulf countries as well as activating tourism locally."

He added that the festival is unique as it aims at developing economic and trade activity inside the country through engaging a large number of beneficiaries and dealers in its marketing as well as expanding tourism awareness. It also supports the national economy and growing developmental concerns.

The festival is very important as it is staged in Sana'a. The city of Sana'a is heavily populated and is the third city included on the international heritage list in addition to its cultural and heritage preservation.

Sana'a Summer Festival is not limited to heritage and technical shows, but also includes trading markets inside the garden, showcasing traditional antiquities, gifts and man-made products including silver decorations. The most outstanding and prominent products are rings composed of jewels inlaid with Yemeni agate.

The festival includes female and male



A traditional Yemeni camp shows some tools used in the Yemeni ancient age and reflect the Yemeni tourist variety

participants. Ali Sowaid said, "The participants in Sana'a Festival reached 1,600 dancers, artists and demonstrators. However, the audience is between 3,000 to 4,000 persons representing different age categories." He also pointed out that the festival provided children with a large space to express their concerns, dreams and aspirations by opening a drawing place for them and featuring puppet shows in addition to cinema shows for families performed by the Chinese band.

Sowaid stated that the festival is not only limited to entertainment but also includes numerous cultural, educational and sporting activities. The festival showcased acrobatics and track and field such as jumping parachutes over Nuqom Mountain as well as motorbike riding presented by a French group. The Jordan group presented puppet-theater. Additionally, Yemeni groups presented Hadhrami, Tahami and Sana'ani folklore, songs and chants. Twelve Yemeni and Gulf singers and chanters participated in the festival.

The Chinese team performed acrobatic shows and other activities while the Egyptian National Circus Troop per-

formed many concerts at Al-Saba'een Park. It was the troop's first appearance in Yemen after accepting an invitation from Yemen's Ministry of Tourism.

Despite bouts of heavy rain in Sana'a, a large crowd of Yemenis from different governorates gathered for the Ahmed Bukhatir festival held on August 8 in Al-Saba'een garden. Bukhatir's sweat voice resonated in the Yemenis' hearts and overshadowed the evening's resilient thunder.

The Ministry of Tourism is aiming at marketing Yemen as an important tourist destination, especially after the decline of tourism due to recent events in Ma'rib. The tourism sector is one of the most important tributaries in generating support for the national economy through foreign currency.

Despite the availability of tourist attractions within Yemen, the country



still is in the developmental stages with regard to this sector.

Tourism Minister Nabil Al-Faqih stated that the intent behind the Sana'a festival is to spread a message of love and peace to the world. It is a motivation for Yemeni expatriates to return to their homeland and help revive tourism in

Yemen. The festival will be organized annually.

Al-Faqih emphasized that activities of the Sana'a Summer Festival may help activate national tourism by popularizing tourist, civil and historic sites in the country and attracting Arab and foreign visitors.



Children painting room created a creative channel for children to reflect their imagination into paper and color their faces with different colors



Selling silver and Yemeni agate was one of the activities during Sana'a summer festival

## Oddly enough news

### Appeal to burglars' bellies backfires

A cottage owner in Germany tried to ward off burglars by leaving canned foods on her doorstep, but robbers found the offerings so tasty that they broke into the house to get second helpings, German police said Tuesday.

The woman who owns the cottage and adjacent garden in Brunswick, western Germany, had left a note for potential burglars not to bother breaking into her cottage but to help themselves to the canned foods on her doorstep, police said.

"The polite appeal that they treat themselves apparently just increased the appetite of the hoodlums," the police said in a statement. "The perpetrators not only took the canned foods but broke open the door and took cucumber salad and sausages."

Petty robbery of summer cottages in Germany is not uncommon since the owners often visit them only weekends.

### Man orders dog to attack shoppers, six injured

A drunk, wheelchair-bound German set his dog on shoppers as he verbally abused them in the southwestern city of Karlsruhe, sending at least six people to hospital with injuries, police said Monday.

"Other than that he was drunk, we can't say what may have motivated the man," a Karlsruhe police spokesman said. "He was German, but he gave the dog the order to attack in French."

Among those attacked by the Border Collie cross was a policewoman, who was taken to hospital with five other shoppers.

By the time officers subdued the man

and his dog, a crowd of some 200 people had gathered, and a number of them were upset at the sight of police grappling with a man in a wheelchair.

"Unfortunately they didn't know what had happened before, and some threw umbrellas at the police," said the spokesman.

The 41-year-old man, temporarily wheelchair-bound due to injury, faces prosecution for causing bodily harm, resisting arrest, and verbal slander. The dog was taken to a home.

### Biker fails to notice missing leg

A Japanese biker failed to notice his leg had been severed below the knee when he hit a safety barrier, and rode on for more than a mile, leaving a friend to pick up the missing limb.

The 54-year-old office worker was out on his motorcycle with a group of friends in the city of Hamamatsu, west of Tokyo, on Monday, when he was unable to negotiate a curve in the road and bumped into the central barrier, the Mainichi Shimbun said.

He felt excruciating pain, but did not notice that his right leg was missing until he stopped at the next junction, the paper quoted local police as saying.

The man and his leg were taken to a hospital, but the limb had been crushed in the collision, the paper said.

### Crocodiles, cobras found in luggage

A Saudi passenger tried to smuggle a large number of reptiles, including cobra snakes and infant Nile crocodiles, out of Egypt in his luggage, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (MENA)

reported Sunday.

The discovery of the reptiles in the passenger's bags triggered a brief panic among security personnel at the Cairo International Airport, witnesses said.

The 22-year-old passenger, identified only as Anas, said he needed the reptiles, which also included chameleons, for scientific research at his university in Saudi Arabia.

His collection will be handed over to Egypt's main zoo in Cairo.

### Italian town to pay residents to shed flab

Overweight residents of an Italian town will be paid to lose weight, the mayor said on Monday.

Men living in the northwestern Italian town of Varallo will receive 50 euros (\$70) for losing 4 kg (9 pounds) in a month, Mayor Gianluca Buonanno said. Women will get the same amount for shedding 3 kg (7 pounds).

If they can keep the weight off for 5 months, they will get another 200 euros (\$280), he told Reuters.

"Lots of people are saying, 'I really need to lose some weight but it's really tough.' So I thought, why don't we go on a group diet?" said Buonanno, who said he was about 6 kg (13 pounds) overweight.

The town of 7,500 people started the campaign on Friday and some residents have already signed up, he said.

Around 35 percent of Italians are overweight or obese, according to European Union figures, with waistlines expanding as the country's healthy Mediterranean diet has given way to processed foods rich in fat, sugar and salt.

Source: Reuters

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